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THE

POCKET PRAYER BOOK,

WITH

A SCRIPTURE MEDITATION AND HYMNS

ATTACHED TO EACH DAY FOR SIX WEEKS.

TWELFTH EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by
The PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY, St. George's Fields.

Sold also by SIMPKIN and MARSHALL; LONGMAN and Co; SHERWOOD and Co; HAMILTON and Co; SEELEY; HATCHARD; NISBET; and all other Booksellers.

1844.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

PREFACE.

—o—

The Editor of the Pocket Prayer Book has reason to acknowledge with much thankfulness the general approbation with which the first Editions of this little Volume have been received. Another Edition being called for, it is now re-printed with additional Prayers for the Family, interspersed with Meditations on Texts of Scripture, selected from Henry, and other devotional writers. It is the Editor's wish, that a short Family Service may be formed, by reading one of the Meditations, followed by a suitable Psalm, or Hymn, (to be read or sung,) and concluded by a Prayer, It will be found that this little Service may be performed in about twenty minutes, and it is hoped will not be thought to encroach too much upon domestic duties.

It is not wished, that this short Meditation should take place of the reading of the Scriptures. Some portion of Scripture, accompanied by a select part of a devotional and practical exposition, such as Doddridge, Henry, Brown, or Scott.

should be daily read in the family. This might form the morning exercise; and a devotional meditation the evening service. Such a variety might be found highly interesting to the servants and younger branches of the family; and lead them to continue from inclination, as well as duty, a practice from which they had received both pleasure and profit.

As the few Meditations interspersed may not afford sufficient variety, the Editor begs leave to recommend for this purpose a small volume of *Devotional Meditations selected from Dr. Watts and Mr. Howe.* That this little Volume may be attended with the Divine blessing, and be the happy means of promoting a spirit of devotion in the Family and the Closet, is the sincere prayer of

The Editor.

PREFACE

TO THE SEVENTH EDITION.

The Editor of the Pocket Prayer Book has been long permitted to watch in retirement the progress of her little circulating volumes, unknown by name or place of abode. Their increasing circulation seems to urge the necessity of giving some efficient place of residence, should any future communication be requested from abroad.

The Editor, being the only responsible person, hopes that the friends of evangelical religion will accept of this apology for the following short statement.

It was a sentiment formed in early years, that every member of society should have in view some leading object of pursuit, so far as may be consistent with the first duties of relative and domestic life. Free from many of its most important cares, the Editor found

herself at liberty to follow the chosen object of her pursuit—the abridgment of books.

The devotional writings of Baxter, Howe, Flavel, Allein, Watts, and Doddridge made a strong impression upon her own mind; and in the ardour of youthful feeling she imagined, that the same impression must follow wherever their works were known.

Her plan was, to form from the most devotional and practical parts of their works, a few pocket volumes for easy circulation; mere extracts were not her taste. It was her wish to form her little abridgments, as much as possible, into a whole; *whether a Volume, a Chapter, or a Meditation: endeavouring to preserve the thoughts and feelings of the respective Authors, and to give all in their own highly spiritual and scriptural language.*

As a sample of what she wished to effect, she begs leave to refer to her little volume of Meditations from Watts and Howe. Happy would she be, should her endeavours encourage some of her pious readers to try the pleasant work. Her *feeble pen, employed from youth to age, has done* little to exhaust *these treasures.*

Henry's Commentary contains rich materials for Bible meditations; some of them will be found in the Pocket Prayer Book. The devotional parts of Baxter's writings, (particularly his Christian Directory,) afford excellent materials for prayer, as well as practical divinity. Bishop Patrick, and Jenks, give some of our most spiritual models of prayer: to each of these authors the Pocket Prayer Book is highly indebted.

Should the expense of printing a volume deter some of her young friends from making an attempt, she wishes to remind them, that it is by no means difficult to epitomize a book into a tract; and for a sample begs leave to refer to the "Saint Indeed," from Flavel.

The union of a few friends might with ease defray the expense of one *tract, especially if the edition be large. If only* one *important tract be selected, the good which may be accomplished is incalculable.*

After so much experience of the Divine goodness, the Editor can with cheerfulness leave her plan with Him who witnessed her *earnest request in early life* for its success. *He has not turned away her* prayer, nor his

mercy from her: and she indulges the pleasing hope that in some distant land, (perhaps far from her native shores,) or in some distant period of time, this undertaking may be placed in more efficient hands; still under His blessing—without which, a Paul may plant, and an Apollos water in vain.

To Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that she could ask or think, to Him alone be all the praise of the unworthy Editor,

Rebecca Wilkinson.

Clapham Common, Surrey,
Jan. 20*th*, 1825.

PREFACE

TO THE TWELFTH EDITION.

The Editors of the Pocket Prayer Book desire again thankfully to acknowledge the continued blessing of Almighty God which appears to have followed its increased circulation.

Since the death of its valued Compiler, in the year 1828, more than 30,000 copies have been sold, or gratuitously dispersed; and a Twelfth Edition, of 10,000 copies, is now issued from the Press.

It only remains for them again to commit their work to the protection of *Him, whose is* the spirit of prayer and *upplication;* and to add their humble

petition, that it may be made subservient to the spiritual welfare of the Universal Church, and to the glory of that Redeemer, "for whom prayer also shall be made continually," and "unto whom shall the gathering of the people be."

Clapham Common, 1844.

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THE

CKET PRAYER BOOK.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

riends, this Prayer Book is presented to
not as a set of forms, by which you are
: confined; but as helps, to lead you to
tion.

ayer is your first duty, your highest
lege: it is a communion of the soul with
with your Father, your heavenly Fa-
It must proceed from your own hearts:
ıst be the language of your own joys, of
own wants and sorrows. It will be the
ure and comfort of your life, to keep
his devout communion with your God.
n loaded with mercies, how pleasant is
look up and say, "Thou crownest me
loving-kindness and tender mercies!"
that spared not his own Son, but de-
ed him up for us all, how shall he not
him also freely give us all things?"
n burdened under a sense of sin, what
is there in going weary and heavy

laden to a throne of grace, and pleading those gracious words, "I will give you rest;" "Him that cometh unto me I will in nowise cast out."

When cast down with sorrow, and overwhelmed with fears; how cheering to go and cast all your care upon him that careth for you! under all perplexities of life to be permitted to say, "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel:" "my flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." This imparts a consolation, which the world can neither give nor take away.

The mind that thus converses with God, that is thus stayed upon him, will enjoy a peace which the world knows not—a peace which passeth all understanding.

Wait not for the *stated season* of prayer; but let your mind ascend to God in every moment of difficulty, fear, or temptation: and let every new mercy raise your heart in praise. Why do Christians live so little under the power of religion, or experience so little of its comforts, but because they are such strangers to this devout communion with God? How many idle thoughts in the *day might* be exchanged for thoughts of *God! and* every thought be a spring of plea-

sure and holy delight! When prayer is mixed with your thoughts, your heart will breathe out such requests as that of the Psalmist, "Rejoice the soul of thy servant; for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul."

To promote this spirit of devotion, converse much with the word of God: let it "dwell in you richly, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Endeavour to imitate the lively devotion you meet with in the heavenly volume; and try to have your heart affected in the same way. To you is directed the invitation, "O come let us sing unto the Lord; let us come before his presence with thanksgiving." O join the universal church, and say, "While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto God while I have any being."

Accustom yourselves to behold the blessed God in the face of his beloved Son, who is "the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person." Call upon him in the endearing relation of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; his God and our God, his Father and our Father. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, *hath begotten* us again to a lively *hope by the resurrection* of Jesus Christ from

the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away!"

Every day let some portion of the word of God be read in this devotional manner. It will afford subjects both for meditation and prayer. And, thus, through the influences of divine grace, you will attain to that spiritual-mindedness, which is "life and peace" here; and which will fit you to join in the song of Moses and the Lamb for ever.

It has been observed, with much pleasure, that, of late, the important, but long-neglected duty of *explaining the Scriptures daily*, for the benefit of children and servants, is reviving among pious heads of families in all classes of society.

Ignorance the most fatal is entailed upon every family where the wisdom from above is not known or desired.

A select portion of scripture, meditated upon in the closet, and talked over with a simplicity and feeling adapted to the capacities of the young and the ignorant, has been attended with the most beneficial effects.

Happy the parents, whose hearts have received the words of life, and who teach *them diligently* to their children; who talk *of them while* sitting in the house, or walk-

ing by the way; when they lie down, and when they rise up.

Happy is the family, whether high or low, where the word of God is loved, dwells in the heart, and influences the lives of all its members.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER,

To be used at the beginning of our Devotions.

O thou ever blessed Majesty, who fillest heaven and earth with thy presence; and art always listening to the supplications of a world of creatures that hang upon thee: open, we beseech thee, thine ears of mercy to thine unworthy servants, who are prostrate at thy footstool. Our hearts would now open themselves to thy gracious influence. Possess them, we beseech thee, with such a strong and vigorous love to thyself, as may lift us up above all earthly things: that we may approach with longing hearts to thee our God, our exceeding joy. Gather in, we beseech thee, our wandering thoughts; and fix them upon thyself. Raise our cold and earthly desires; and cause them to ascend unto thee in the lively fervour of devotion. May we so ask, that we may receive; so seek, that we may find; so knock, that it may be opened unto us; through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYERS.

FIRST WEEK.

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

CHRIST MIGHTY TO SAVE.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to "the uttermost, that come unto God by him, "seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for "them."—Heb. vii. 25.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was able to save from the beginning. From the first promise to our fallen parents unto the present day, has the seed of the woman been bruising the serpent's head. By faith in him the elders obtained a good report; and died in expectation of a better resurrection. Their faith embraced him, according to the degree in which he was revealed. They saw his day in distant prospect, and rejoiced: and were admitted to the divine favour here, and to *eternal happiness* above. He appeared *able to save* when he dwelt on earth in a

tabernacle of clay. Still he mingled the dignity and power of a God, with the abasements and infirmities of a mortal man: asserting to himself the divine prerogative of forgiving sins; speaking of a glorious resurrection and eternal life, as his gift; representing himself as the head stone of the corner, on whom was fixed all the stress of men's eternal interests; and as the awful judge, before whose tribunal the greatest of the children of men should stand; and from whom all should receive that decisive sentence, which should fix them in final happiness or despair. Nay, even in his deepest humiliation on the cursed tree, a ray of divine glory broke through the dark cloud of infamy with which he was then surrounded. And, amidst all the scorn and rage of insulting enemies, who were reproaching him as abandoned by God and man, he speaks from the cross as from the throne: and, as the king of heaven, takes upon him to dispose of seats in Paradise. If he were thus able to save, when he dwelt in so humble a form; how much more so is he amidst all the magnificence of his exaltation in the highest heaven; whither he has ascended, as a glorious conqueror, having led Captivity captive: and received gifts for men! Can we

believe that his arm has less power to save; or that his ear is heavy, and cannot hear? No! we may assure ourselves, that he is at this moment as able to exert an almighty power for the salvation of his people, as he was on that illustrious day, when he poured out the Spirit on his disciples, at the Feast of Pentecost; or when he appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus with the glories of heaven new upon him, even with lustre exceeding that of the meridian sun! Still is our Redeemer able to save, and shall continue to be so. When we and our children are laid in the dust of death, he shall be the joy and confidence of a new race of believers. And to the very end of time, one generation shall rise, and declare his righteousness to another; and that righteousness shall be the same. This foundation of God shall stand sure; though rocks moulder into dust, and the mountains be removed out of their place. Yea, when the sun shall fade away in its orb, and all the golden lamps of these lower heavens shall be extinguished, the Sun of glory shall shine forth with undiminished radiancy. Still his victorious energy shall continue the same; and it shall be as true of *his power, as of his* grace; that Jesus Christ *is the same yesterday*, to-day, and for ever.

Heavenly Father, glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; that at the name of Jesus every knee may bow, and every tongue confess him Lord. Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

All power and grace to God belong;
He is my strength, and He my song:
He comes, my Saviour, from his throne;
He comes, to bring salvation down.

Lo! rising from the tents of men,
The voice of joy resounds again:
His saints with him the triumph claim,
And shout salvation to his name.

His own right hand its strength displays
In acts of valour and of grace:
The cross, the tomb, the throne declare
How vast his power and glory are.

For us he conquers, though he dies:
Behold the mighty Saviour rise!
His own right hand on high displays
In acts of valour and of grace.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Most gracious God and Father, it is good for us to draw near to thee. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee; that he may be still praising thee. We bless thee for the returning light of this morning. O let the day-spring from on high visit our souls; and the sun of righteousness arise upon us with healing in his wings. The light we see is the Lord's. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad therein." May this be indeed the sabbath of the Lord in our dwelling, and in our hearts; a sabbath of rest from sin, and of rest in God. Enable us, we pray thee, so to sanctify this day, that it may be made a means of our sanctification.

Grant that, by resting from every worldly employment, our hearts may be more taken off from present things: and that, by employing our time in the worship of God, we may be led into a more experimental acquaintance with the work of heaven, and be made more meet for that blessed world. *On this day would* we give glory to thee, *O* FATHER ALMIGHTY, maker of heaven and

earth. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive blessing, and honour, and glory, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. O Thou, who didst at first command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, to give us more of the light of the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ; and let us be thy workmanship, created anew in him unto good works. With peculiar pleasure would we call to mind the resurrection of our exalted REDEEMER from the dead on *the first day of the week;* by which he was declared to be the son of God with power, and is become the first-fruits of them that slept. O that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may rise and walk in newness of life. We pray that the SPIRIT of him that raised up Jesus from the dead, and graciously descended on the Church on *the day of Pentecost,* may dwell and rule in us, and make us partakers of a new and divine nature.

We bless thee for *thy holy word,* which is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Let us not receive this grace of God in vain. But teach us to value and understand those *things which* were written for our learning, *that we through* patience and comfort of the

scriptures might have hope. Especially we bless thee for the great *Gospel* record, "That God hath given to us eternal life, and that this life is in his Son." O may we receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, "That Christ came into the world to save sinners." May he be "made of God unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." May we be united to him by faith, and grow up into him in all things, who is our head. We bless thee for the New Covenant made with us in Jesus Christ. May we flee to it for refuge; and take hold of it, as the hope set before us. O receive us into the bonds of this covenant; and make us accepted in the beloved.

Grant that our hearts may this day be filled with pleasing thoughts of Christ, and that great love wherewith he hath loved us. For his sake forgive all our sins, in thought, word, and deed; and let no corrupt affections hinder the ascent of our souls heavenward. Let thy word come with life and power upon our souls; and be as good seed sown in good soil, taking root and bringing forth fruit to thy praise. Assist the *Ministers* of thy Gospel rightly to divide the word of truth; and to speak with love, fidelity, and success. May sinners be converted unto thee; and thy

saints built up in knowledge, faith, and holiness, unto salvation. Now the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Let everlasting glories crown
  Thy head, my Saviour and my Lord:
Thy hands have brought salvation down,
  And writ the blessings in thy word.

In vain the trembling conscience seeks
  Some solid ground to rest upon;
With long despair the spirit breaks
  Till we apply to Christ alone.

How well thy blessed truths agree!
  How wise and holy thy commands!
Thy promises, how great and free;
  How firm our hope and comfort stands!

Should all the forms that men devise
  Assault our faith with treach'rous art;
We call them vanity and lies,
  And bind the gospel to our heart.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

O most good and gracious God, though thou art the High and Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, yet thou permittest us sinful dust and ashes to draw nigh unto thee; and dwellest in the humble and contrite heart, that trembles at thy word. We come to praise thee for all the gracious words that we have heard this day in thy house; for the glad tidings of salvation which have sounded in our ears; for all that we have heard of Jesus, of his dying love, of his holy and spotless life, of the sanctifying influences of his Spirit; for all the holy thoughts, affections, and purposes that have been raised in our hearts; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. How exceeding rich is thy grace to man in Christ Jesus! "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!" May we show this thankfulness by a life of constant obedience to thy commandments, and of humble submission to thy will. May it be our meat and our drink to do thy will.

Forgive, O our Father, that our thoughts, affections, and devotions, towards thee, have been so few, so short, so cold; that we have

at any time loved the world—the trifles and pleasures of it, more than God, and Christ, and heaven. We are ashamed, and tremble to think, with what indifference we too often hear and receive the messages of salvation by Christ; that we are so little melted by his love; that we are so unlike our blessed Lord in his holy life, and in his meek and lowly temper; that we have no deeper sense of the evil of sin, after all that thou hast done to deliver us from it, and to show thy hatred against it; that we have so little serious sense of the worth of souls, and the weight of eternity.

O gracious God, clear up our understanding of divine things. Call off our minds from everything that draws our hearts from thee: and write thy law in our hearts, that we may no more sin against thee. Sanctify us more entirely, in body, soul, and spirit; renew us more into thine image. We would be thine, more entirely thine; we would live to thee while we live. We would serve thee, not with the spirit of bondage as slaves; but with the cheerfulness and affection of children. O make thy ways so pleasant to us, that we may have no relish for the forbidden pleasures of sin. Let the thoughts of thy precious love in Christ, and of our peace and pardon, and

everlasting blessedness with thee, be the daily cordial of our hearts. All the days of our lives may we comfort ourselves and one another, with the hope that we shall be ever with our glorified Lord. We would live and worship together here, as fellow-heirs of that glory and blessedness, which we hope to enjoy with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom. As the children of thy family, we would pray that the same blessings may descend on all our brethren of mankind. May they also with us partake of thy great salvation; be translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of thy dear Son. In Him let all the nations of the earth be blessed: and may we all join at last in the song of Moses and the Lamb, saying—"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive glory and honour; for he hath redeemed us to God by his blood." Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

THE THRONE OF GRACE.

"*Let us, therefore,* come boldly unto the throne "*of grace.*"—*Heb. iv. 16.*

A *throne* bespeaks authority, awe, anc verence. A *throne* of *grace* bespeaks couragement, even to the chief of sinn There grace reigns and acts with sovere freedom, power, and bounty. To be o found before this throne is both our boun duty and our highest interest. Our err there is, that we may obtain mercy, and grace to help in time of need.

In all our approaches to this thron grace for mercy, we are permitted to c with humble freedom and boldness. should ask in faith, nothing wavering: should come with a spirit of adoption children to a reconciled God and Fathe

We are, indeed, to come with revere and godly fear: not, however, with te and amazement: but as kindly invitec the mercy-seat, where grace reigns, thro righteousness, unto eternal life, by J Christ our Lord.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

Come let us lift our thankful eyes
Up to the courts above;
Rejoic'd to see our Father there,
Upon a throne of love.

Now we may bow before his feet,
  And venture near the Lord;
No fiery cherub guards his seat,
  Nor double flaming sword.

The peaceful gates of heavenly bliss
  Are open'd by the Son:
High let us raise our notes of praise,
  And reach th' Almighty's throne.

To thee ten thousand thanks we bring,
  Great Advocate on high;
And glory to th' eternal King,
  That lays his anger by.

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, neither can sin dwell with thee. As guilty sinners we deserve to be called to a throne of *judgment:* but, through the Son of thy love, thou art proclaiming *a throne of grace*—a mercy seat! We come to touch thy golden sceptre, and live.

Lord, though we are unworthy, we come; because thou hast found a ransom—an atonement for our guilt; because thou hast pointed us to thy beloved Son, and said,

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." How great is thy grace! that we who have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep; who have forsaken thee—the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water; that such rebellious and backsliding children should be invited to return to a Father's house; to be received not merely as pardoned criminals, but as sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

Lord of all power and grace, trusting in thine almighty strength, thine infinite goodness, and thy gracious promises, we come to ask of thee the blessings which thou knowest that we need; and to obtain grace sufficient for us. Let thy good Spirit help our infirmities, and strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith; to strive against the sins that most easily beset us; to walk more acceptably before thee, in all the duties of righteousness and holiness. Oh suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able to bear; let no iniquity prevail against us, nor any sin have dominion over us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, *vain-glory,* and hypocrisy; from envy, *hatred, and* malice, and all uncharitable-

ness; from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment, O Lord graciously deliver us. In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our wealth; in *the hour of death,* and in *the day of judgment,* good Lord deliver us.

May it please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee; and diligently to live after thy commandments: to bless and keep all thy people: to give unto them increase of grace to hear meekly thy word, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. Strengthen such as do stand; comfort and help the weak-hearted; raise up them that fall; and finally beat down Satan under our feet. May it please thee to succour, help, and comfort all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; and to have mercy upon all men.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may amend our lives according to thy holy word. We humbly beseech thee, O Father, *mercifully* to look upon our infirmities; and *for the glory of thy* name, turn from us all *those evils that* we most righteously have

deserved: and grant, that in all our trouble we may put our whole trust and confidenc in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee i holiness, to thy honour and glory; throug our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesu Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

For Monday Evening.

Not to condemn the sons of men
Did Christ, the Son of God, appear;
No weapons in his hands are seen,
No flaming sword, nor thunder there.

Such was the pity of our God;
He lov'd the race of men so well;
He sent his Son to bear our load,
And save our guilty souls from hell.

Sinners, believe the Saviour's word;
Trust in his mighty name and live:
A thousand joys his lips afford;
His hands a thousand blessings give.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

O God, our maker and preserver, wh *gavest us our* being at first, and hast uphel *it to this* moment; we bless thee, that th

didst create us in thine own image, and endow us with a reasonable soul, that we might glorify thee and enjoy thee for ever. But we confess with shame and contrition, that we have not done this; we have loved other things more than thee; we have feared other things more than offending thee; and this very day, O merciful Redeemer, too often have we forgotten thee, the author of all our blessings, and the fountain of all our comforts. Lord have mercy upon us, miserable sinners.

We thank thee, O Lord, that there is a mercy-seat to which we are invited to come, that we may obtain pardon for the past and grace for the future. O let us not pray as the hypocrites do, repeating with their lips what they do not feel in their hearts; lest our very prayers should in the last day rise up in judgment against us and condemn us. May we really feel an earnest desire for thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace. Our most secret thoughts are open to thee, as well as our words and actions. Help us, we beseech thee, seriously to examine ourselves this night. May our sins be brought to remembrance; and may we not suffer them to escape from our minds, till we have a good hope that they are forgiven for

Christ's sake. Let us not commit ourselves to rest with either a guilty conscience, or a careless heart. But may we lie down trusting in the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and looking to him for the salvation of our lost souls.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to suppose that by merely bending our knees in prayer, we do all that is required of us. May we feel that prayer is designed *to bring our souls near to Thee,* to make us like thee; that we ask in order to receive; and seek that we may find. O Lord bestow upon us the spirit of prayer; that we may pour out our very hearts before thee, as our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

As thou hast taught us to meet together, and to offer up our supplications and praises day by day; grant, we entreat thee, O Lord, that in so doing, though in our imperfect manner, we may become more spiritual, more acquainted with thy blessed gospel; that we may love thy ways and ordinances with increasing fervour, hate sin with a more perfect hatred, and become more and more fit for thine eternal kingdom. O make us delight to pray unto thee and to praise thy name. Angels love to sing thy praises; thy saints on earth delight to worship thee:

Oh may we be numbered among them both here, and in glory everlasting. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Tuesday Morning.

THE FLESH AND SPIRIT.

"O wretched man that I am! who shall de-
"liver me from the body of this death? I thank
"God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then
"with the mind I myself serve the law of God:
"but with the flesh the law of sin."—Rom. vii. 24, 25.

The remainder of in-dwelling sin is a grievous burden to the regenerate soul. All that are born again truly delight in the law of God. To its authority they most cheerfully submit; and in that submission they enjoy a holy complacency. They delight not only in the promises, but also in the precepts and prohibitions of the Word. Of these gracious delights the soul is the seat and residence: they are, therefore, sincere and serious. The new man is called the *inner man, the hidden* man of the heart. *The corrupt nature*, however, the unrege-

nerate part, is continually working toward sin, and engages the soul in a perpetua warfare. Foiled in the contest, the hear faints and seems ready to perish. Neverthe less there is yet comfort from the covenant o grace: which accepts the willingness of the spirit; and has provided pardon for the weaknesses of the flesh, rest for the weary and strength against prevailing iniquities.

There is an all-sufficient friend—ever Christ Jesus. He is the mediator of all our prayers and all our praises. And through him God pities, and spares, and pardons, and lays not our sins to our charge. Yea more Christ has purchased for us all the graces o the new covenant, and in due time deliver ance,—even an everlasting holiness. Blessed be God, who giveth us the victory through Christ our Lord.

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Holy Lord God! I love thy truth,
Nor dare thy least commandments slight;
Yet shrink before thy just reproof,
And own the condemnation right.

But, though the poison lurks within,
Hope bids me still with patience wait,
Till death shall set me free from sin,
Free from the only thing I hate.

Had I a throne above the rest,
Where angels and archangels dwell;
One sin unslain within my breast,
Would make that heaven as dark as hell.

But Oh! no foe invades the bliss,
When glory crowns the Christian's head;
One sight of Jesus as He is,
Shall strike all sin for ever dead.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

O most holy and merciful Father, with sorrowful, humble, and penitent hearts, we cast ourselves down before thee, confessing that we have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. We remember in the bitterness of our souls, how many obligations thou hast laid upon us to love and serve thee. How often have we acknowledged the wisdom and goodness of thy commands! How frequently have we promised and vowed to conform ourselves to them! Yet, again and

again, has the slightest temptation drawn us aside from thy way.

But again would we return unto thee, saying—"Take away all iniquity," "receive us graciously," and "love us freely." Withdraw not the sweet influences of thy Holy Spirit from thy unworthy servants, who entirely confide in thy mercy. Hide not thy face from us; put not thy servants away in anger. Hast thou not promised to give power to the faint, and to increase the strength of them that have no might.

We desire not only pardon of our sins, but a divine power to enable us to subdue them; and that our repentance may be such as shall not need to be repented of. We desire no peace, O Lord, but in keeping thy law. O strengthen us, we beseech thee, in this holy disposition; that we may be kept in thy favour and love, by a happy agreement with thy will and pleasure in all things.

Sanctify our *understanding*, that we may rightly perceive thy holy truths, and fully apprehend them. Sanctify our *memory* that we may keep in mind all that we know of thee, and of thy blessed will revealed to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Sanctify our *will*, that it may cheerfully embrace, and entirely consent to thine in all things. And sanctify

all our *affections*, that we may love thee with all our heart, and soul, and strength; and delight in thee more than in all the pleasures of this life. Sanctify our *passions*, that we may be angry at nothing so much as having displeased thee.

Sanctify us throughout in body, as well as in spirit; that we may possess it in holiness and honour; and that all our senses may administer occasion to our minds to remember thee, to praise thee, and to bless thee. Fortify our wills with the power of thy divine love, that we may overcome all sensual affections. And possess us with such a lively hope of those good things which Christ has promised in the life to come; that it may make us active and zealous, steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Thou knowest the secrets of all hearts; let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us according as we hope in thee. Enable us to cleave unto thee with full purpose of heart. "O cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right *spirits within us.* Make our hearts sound *in thy statutes,* that we may never be

ashamed. Keep back thy servants also fro presumptuous sins; let them not have d minion over us. Let the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts, be accep able in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, a our Redeemer." Amen.

HYMN.

For Tuesday Evening.

Dread Sovereign! let my evening song
  Like holy incense rise;
Assist the offerings of my tongue
  To reach the lofty skies.

Through all the dangers of the day
  Thy hand was still my guard;
And still to drive my wants away,
  Thy mercy stood prepar'd.

Perpetual blessings from above
  Encompass me around;
But Oh! how few returns of love
  Hath my Creator found!

What have I done for him that died
  To save my wretched soul;
How are my follies multiplied
  Fast as my minutes roll!

Lord, with this guilty heart of mine,
  To thy dear cross I flee;
And to thy grace my soul resign,
  To be renew'd by thee.

Thus with my thoughts compos'd to peace,
  I give my eyes to sleep;
Thy hand in safety keeps my days,
  And will my slumbers keep.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

O Father of mercies, the fountain of all the good things we enjoy at present, and the hope of our souls for ever and ever, again would we return unto thee blessing, and glory, and honour, and praise for all thy goodness towards us. Blessed be thy name for thy renewed kindness to us throughout the day past, in our spiritual and temporal concerns; and for the liberty thou now grantest us of drawing near unto thee.

Pardon, O Lord, whatsoever thou hast seen in us in thought, word, and deed contrary to thy holy law; and grant us an earnest desire to approve ourselves unto thee in all well-doing. It is but just and reasonable that we should follow thy will, and not our

own. And in a grateful sense of our obligations to thee, we ought to employ all our powers of soul and body to thy glory. Such is the goodness of thy will, that to be absolutely led and governed by it is our highest happiness and our most reasonable service. Make us deeply sensible, O Lord, how greatly we are indebted to thee both for teaching us by Christ Jesus, and also strongly obliging us to exercise ourselves in all godliness, purity, righteousness, humility, goodness, and truth.

We thank thee for the holy example he has condescended to set us; for the hope thou hast given us by his blood; for the gracious aids of thy Spirit to enable us to imitate and obey him; and for the exceeding great and precious promises of grace here, and eternal glory hereafter, which he has given us, to encourage us to follow him willingly and cheerfully even unto death. O that we may have a lively and steadfast faith in his word, continually abiding in our hearts; exciting us to unwearied diligence, zeal, and love, and patient continuance in well-doing: that so our hope in thee may grow and increase, and that we may joyfully expect *that hour which* shall translate us to thy blissful *presence.*

To thy care, O heavenly Father, we commit ourselves, and all that we are and have, this night. We beseech thee to defend and keep us both in soul and body, from all the evils and dangers to which the weakness of our frame, and the greatness of our sins expose us. May we be refreshed by comfortable rest; and rise again to serve thee better, according to thy will, in all the duties of the following day. Shouldest thou be pleased to give us another day of trial, may we be enabled to add repentance and amendment to our lives. And may every day bring us nearer to those everlasting joys and glories which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. We ask all in the name of our dear Redeemer; to whom, with thyself, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed everlasting praise. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

"And Jesus said, A certain man had two sons.
"And the younger of them said to his father,
"*Father, give me the* portion of goods that falleth
"*to me.* And he divided unto them his living

"And not many days after, the younger son ga-
"thered all together, and took his journey into a
"far country; and there wasted his substance
"with riotous living. And when he had spent
"all, there arose a mighty famine in that land;
"and he began to be in want. And he went and
"joined himself to a citizen of that country; and
"he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And
"he would fain have filled his belly with the
"husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave
"unto him. And when he came to himself, he
"said, How many hired servants of my father's
"have bread enough and to spare, and I perish
"with hunger! I will arise and go to my father,
"and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned
"against heaven and before thee, and am no
"more worthy to be called thy son; make me
"as one of thy hired servants. And he arose,
"and came to his father. But when he was yet
"a great way off, his father saw him, and had
"compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and
"kissed him. And the son said unto him,
"Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in
"thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called
"thy son. But the father said to his servants,
"Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him;
"and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his
"feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill
"*it; and let us eat* and be merry: For this my
"*son was dead,* and is alive again; he was lost
"*and is found.*"—Luke xv. 11—24.

Such were we! and such is our heavenly Father! Thus is the sinner enriched by his bounty, and ungrateful for his love! and such he remains till a Father's rod brings him to himself; till Divine grace affects his heart with penitential sorrow and filial love. Then, and not till then, he says, "I will arise and go to my Father."

But Oh! let us behold, with wonder and gratitude, the gracious reception he meets with from injured goodness, from Divine love!

The father sees him afar off; runs to meet and embrace him; interrupts his complaints and confessions, his sorrows and his fears, saying—"Bring forth the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry."

Thus does our heavenly Father welcome the humble penitent! Thus does he open the arms of his love to embrace him, and the treasures of his bounty to enrich him. He arrays him with the robe of a Saviour's righteousness; dresses him in the ornaments of sanctifying grace; honours him with the tokens of adopting love; and invests him with the immunities of his children. And all this he does with unutterable delight! He

rejoices over him with singing! And t
the joyful language of the song—"Th
son was dead, and is alive again: he wa
and is found!"

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

Heavenly Father!—to this name,
May we humbly lay our claim?
Worms on earth, and thou above!
May we dare to ask thy love?

Yes! from far, thy love can see
Our first wish to come to thee;
Ere we ask, thine ear can hear;
Bid the trembling feet draw near.

Love can lay its anger by;
Love can bid the tear be dry;
Love can spread its arms around;
Love can say, "My son is found."

While we seek the meanest place,
At the footstool of thy grace;
While we heave the humble sigh;
Bid us, "Abba, Father," cry.

Strangers now no more to roam,
In our Father's house at home:
Sons and daughters may we be,
One with Jesus!—one with Thee!

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

Our Father which art in heaven, we would love thee as the author of our being, as the Father of our spirits. But thou art still dearer to us as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom thou art redeeming sinners unto thyself, calling them out of darkness into marvellous light, and creating anew thine image in their souls. Thou art adopting them into thy family, and making them heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. "Behold, what manner of love is this, that we should be called the sons of God;" and provided for as thy children! Oh let this name of Father, and our relation to thee, be our glory, our refuge, our support, and the principle of our love and obedience. Give us that faith and humble confidence in prayer, by the Spirit of grace and supplication, that we may approach thee in all our necessities as children unto a father more ready to give than we are to ask. May we come with boldness to a throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Oh let the Spirit of thy Son breathe continually in our hearts, *teaching us to cry,* "Abba, Father." We *would seek His* blessed influences with more

earnestness than our daily food. We know that thou art more ready to give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask thee, than an earthly parent is to grant bread to his children. Guilty, weak, and helpless as we are, it is our comfort, that thou—our heavenly Father—knowest all our wants, and wilt supply them, not only according to our necessities, but acccording to thy riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. Like a tender parent, thou art ready to notice the *earliest desire* of our souls after thee—the *feeblest step* toward thee. It is thine own gracious promise—"Before they ask, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Into thine ear would we pour all our sorrows; and, having cast our burdens upon thee, would go away and be no more sad. Let us not only mourn; but also rejoice before thee, as the children of thy love. Lift up upon us the light of a reconciled father's countenance. Let no allowed sin separate between us and our God. Hide not thy face from us. Put not thy children away in anger. Leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation. Oh that it may ever be the joy of our *hearts* to be righteous, as thou art righteous; *to be merciful*, as thou, our heavenly Father, *art merciful*; to be holy in all manner of con-

versation, as thou art holy. Let the relation we bear to thee as thy children, fill us with love and kindness toward all our brethren of mankind.

Let all those whom thou dost own for thy children, most gracious Father, be united in holy bands of love; bearing one another's burdens, and joining together to advance the honour of thy name, and show forth thy praise. And at last may we all make up one great family which no man can number, and unite in ascribing "Glory and praise, to Him who sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever."

And since thou our Father dwellest in heaven, may our affections be raised above earthly things; that we may seek heaven as our country, where we hope to possess those mansions which Jesus—our elder brother—has prepared for us in our Father's house. There may we be together, with his Father and our Father, with his God and our God! Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

My Shepherd is the living God;
Now shall my wants be well supplied;
His providence and holy word
Become my safety and my guide.

In pastures where salvation grows,
  He makes me feed, he makes me rest;
There living water gently flows,
  And all the food 's divinely blest.

My wand'ring feet his ways mistake,
  But he restores my soul to peace;
And leads me, for his mercy's sake,
  In pleasant paths of righteousness.

Though call'd to tread the gloomy vale,
  Where death and all its terrors are;
My heart and hope shall never fail,
  For Jesus will be with me there.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep; and desire to draw nigh unto thee, confessing with shame and sorrow, that we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws: we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord have mercy upon us miserable sinners; and save us through faith in the blood of thy beloved

Son. O draw us to thyself with cords of love. We know that thou dost not desire the death of a sinner; but wouldest rather that he should be converted and live. Turn us, O God, and we shall be turned; for thou art the Lord our God. Admit us again into thy family; though we are unworthy to be called thy children; our sins and our iniquities remember no more.

Thou hast made known thyself to us as a God ready to pardon, and not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance—as having given thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. O Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief. Enable us to rely more simply and entirely on Jesus, as exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins.

Forgive, O Lord, we beseech thee, whatever has been sinful in our conduct, conversation, and temper through the day past; and graciously accept and bless us this night.

Spare us, O Lord, if it be thy holy will, to see the light of another day; and mercifully preserve both our souls and bodies *from every evil.* Grant that in the morning we may arise in health, and with in-

creased vigour, thankfully disposed to praise and serve thee. And Oh that the close of every future day which thou shalt vouchsafe to afford us, may find us more disengaged from the present world, and more desirous after a better. May we die daily to the pleasures, the riches, and honours of this life. May we glorify thee on earth, finish the work thou hast given us to do; and at length, in thine own due time, be received unto thyself, to behold thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And, with regard to the time and circumstances of our departure hence, we most humbly pray, in submission to thy will, O Lord, that it may be when we shall be best prepared, and in the most holy and heavenly state of mind; when we shall be entirely resigned to thee; when we shall have the clearest acts of faith in God by Jesus Christ, high and reverential thoughts of thee, and enlarged affections towards thee. And, at that awful period, when called to enter the conflict with the king of terrors, grant us, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy protection and cheering presence. May we be delivered from all consternation, all doubt and uncertainty as to our everlasting state; and, at length, depart in the well-grounded assurance, that,

when we shall be absent from the body, we shall be present with the Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

"I am the living bread which came down "from heaven: If any man eat of this bread he "shall live for ever: and the bread that I will "give is my flesh, which I will give for the life "of the world."—John vi. 51.

It is evident, that by the flesh and blood of the Son of Man, repeatedly mentioned in this chapter, we are to understand the Redeemer incarnate and dying. It is Christ and him crucified, and redemption wrought out by him, with all the precious benefits of pardon, acceptance with God, the adoption of sons, access to a throne of grace, the promises of the covenant, and eternal life. These are called the flesh and the blood of Christ; because they are purchased by the breaking of his body, and the shedding of his blood.

The eating and drinking of this spiritual *food begins with* hungering and thirsting *fter Christ;* with earnest and importunate

desires after him; an unwillingness to take up with anything short of an interest in him; and an application of his sufferings and merits to ourselves; a delight in Jesus, and salvation by him; and a dependence upon him for the support and comfort of our spiritual life, and the increase of its strength and vigour.

It is a fatal sign that we have no spiritual life in us, if we have no desire towards Christ, nor delight in him. If the soul doth not hunger and thirst, it certainly doth not live. Faith in Christ is the first living principle of grace: by faith we have a close and intimate union with Christ; he is in us, and we in him. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, as set forth in the Gospel to be the food of souls, he hath eternal life; he hath it now; he has the foretaste of it, and the hope of it, and the assurance of it: "Because I live ye shall live also!" Amen.

HYMN

For Thursday Morning.

O happy Christian! who can boast
The Son of God is mine;
Happy, though humble in the dust,
Rich in this gift divine.

He lives the life of heav'n below;
And shall for ever live;
This heavenly bread shall life bestow,
And endless vigour give.

That life we ask with bended knees;
Nor will the Lord deny;
Celestial mercy will not see
Its humble suppliants die.

That life Thou gav'st for praise alone
O grant continued breath;
Taught by experience, may we own
That praise can live in death.

PRAYER

For Thursday Morning.

TO KNOW MORE OF CHRIST.

O thou Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ıd God of all glory, who hast so loved the orld, as to give thine only-begotten Son, ıat whosoever believeth in him should not erish, but have everlasting life; have ıercy upon us, miserable sinners. Prepare ır hearts to seek thee, and answer us ac-ɔrding to the multitude of thy tender mer-es.

We mourn over our ingratitude, and the *rdness and* impenitency of our hearts

But above all, we bewail our unbelief of the blessed record thou hast given us of thy beloved Son. Though we have read of his glory, how little does it affect us! Though he has a name which is above every name, in heaven or on earth, how little do we love him for all that he has done and suffered on our behalf!

Have compassion upon us, O Lord, and help us. Give us, according to thine own most gracious promise, the Spirit of truth to open our understanding, that we may understand the things which the Scriptures reveal of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. O give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him—of his person and offices; of his love and power towards all that hear his voice and follow him. May we so abound in clear, enlarged, and endearing thoughts of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he may be precious to us, as he was to the glorious company of the Apostles, and the noble army of martyrs. Thou, O God, hast declared, that thy Son shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high: help us, we earnestly pray thee, to give him more and more perfectly the honour due unto his name. Enable us to comprehend with all saints the immeasurable extent of his love,

in its breadth and length, its height and depth.

Grant, O Lord, that the Saviour's love to us may be the pattern of ours to all that are about us. May we make him our pattern, as he is our hope. May we put on the Lord Jesus Christ; and be clothed in all the graces which shone so conspicuously in him. May nothing be so dear to us in this world, as to be partakers of his holiness, his humility, his goodness and charity, his meekness, patience, and resignation; his entire trust in thee, and delight to do the will of his heavenly Father. Fix our minds and affections more steadfastly on that glory wherewith he is crowned, by his obedient suffering even unto death; that we may never be weary nor faint in our minds; but, continuing faithful unto death, may receive the crown of life.

We commit to thee this day both our souls and bodies; beseeching thee to increase our love to thee, and to all men, till we are fit to be translated to the regions of love and joy; where the harmony of praise shall never be interrupted by sins, or griefs, or fears, or discord; but shall be everlastingly perfect, *to our joy and to thy* glory; through Jesus *Christ our Lord.*

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

Jesus! I love thy charming name:
'Tis music to my ear:
Fain would I sound it out so loud,
That earth and heav'n should hear.

Yes, thou art precious to my soul;
My transport, and my trust:
Jewels to thee are gaudy toys,
And gold is sordid dust.

All my capacious powers can wish,
In thee doth richly meet:
Nor to mine eyes is light so dear,
Nor friendship half so sweet.

Thy grace still dwells upon my heart,
And sheds its fragrance there;
The noblest balm of all its wounds,
The cordial of its care.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

O most High and Holy One, who inhal
est eternity, and art God over all, bles
for evermore; happy are they who stand c
tinually in thy presence, always admiri
loving, and obeying thee; and rejoicin

thy love and favour. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive from us, and from thy whole creation, blessing and honour, and glory, and power; for thou art great, and greatly to be praised. All the host of heaven continually praise thee; and so ought the universal church on earth, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come!"

Praised be thy sovereign goodness, which spreads itself over all thy works. "O Lord, how manifold are they!" "Thou openest thine hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness." Through thy mercy, O Lord, we can from our own experience bear abundant testimony to thy goodness. O how pleasant and wonderful is it to recount all the instances of thy patience with us, and thy bounty towards us! In the day of trouble thou hast been our defence and our refuge. In our distress we cried unto thee, and thou hast enlarged us. Blessed be God, who hath not cast away our prayer, nor his mercy from us. When our feet have slipped, thy mercy, O Lord, held us up.

But especially would we adore, O Lord, the breadth, and length, and depth, and *height of thy love* in Christ Jesus; that thou *shouldest* "*so love* the world as to give thy

well-beloved Son," that we, who were far off, might be brought nigh by the blood of his cross. Blessed be thy name for all the means which thou hast provided, that we might be led to the knowledge of thy great love. We glorify thee, O Heavenly Father, if thou, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, hast "shined into our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Glory be to thee, O God, for the gracious visitations of thy Holy Spirit, enlightening our minds, drawing our will towards thee, exciting in us holy desires, and forming pious purposes and resolutions in our hearts. How often hast thou spared us when we deserved thine anger! From how many assaults of the enemy have we been guarded! And how many of his designs have been defeated by an invisible and undeserved goodness! O how great ought our joy to be in thy love, and in thy salvation! To thee, O Lord, ought we to resign ourselves with the greatest willingness of heart, to hope and trust in thee at all times; and to study to glorify thee more and more with our bodies and spirits which are thine. We would desire no greater honour and happiness in this world than to live to the praise and glory

of thy grace in Christ Jesus; walking worthy of him who hath called us to thy kingdom and glory. Our Father. &c.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan "unto John, to be baptized of him. But John "forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized "of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus "answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now; "for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteous-"ness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when "he was baptized, went up straightway out of the "water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto "him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending "like a dove, and lighting upon him. And, lo, a "voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved "Son, in whom I am well pleased."—Matt. iii. 13—17.

Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness: thus it becomes the penitent sinner to put off the old man and to put on the new; to die unto sin, and to rise unto newness of life. *Thus it becomes* us to wash the body, *in token of that* purity of heart, without

which none shall see God. Thus it became him who condescended to be the leader, pattern, and guide of his people, to leave them an example; to show them the purity and holiness required in the gospel kingdom.

The blessed Jesus was our example; not only as to the outward and visible sign, but also as to the inward and spiritual grace. While looking up and praying, he was preparing for his glorious offices; and making ready that heavenly kingdom which was now to be founded; preparing to be King of Sion—King of saints. He was preparing that great sacrifice which was to atone for the sins of the world; perfecting himself through suffering, that he might bring many sons to glory. While thus looking up and offering himself up for this great work, behold! the heavens were opened unto him; and the Father shed abroad the light of his countenance; the divine Spirit was poured forth without measure upon him, as a spirit of might, and of power, and of adoption. And, lo! a voice from heaven, saying, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

As such, blessed Jesus, may our souls receive *Thee, full* of grace and truth. We *earnestly pray,* that something of that hol

nction may descend from Thee upon our ouls. May thy enlivening Spirit kindle s sacred flame there with such vigour, that nany waters may not be able to quench it, or floods of temptation overwhelm us.

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

My dear Redeemer and my Lord,
I read my duty in thy word;
But in thy life the law appears
Drawn out in living characters.

Such was thy truth, and such thy zeal;
Such deference to thy Father's will;
Such love, and meekness so divine;
I would transcribe and make them mine.

Cold mountains, and the midnight air,
Witness'd the fervour of thy prayer;
The desert thy temptation knew,
Thy conflict and thy vict'ry too.

Be thou my pattern; make me bear
More of thy gracious image here:
Then God the judge shall own my name
Amongst the followers of the Lamb.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

O most holy and blessed Lord, thine we e, *and thee* we ought to serve. Thou hast

made us, and not we ourselves: we are, therefore, not our own; but bound to serve thee with our bodies and spirits which are thine. The obligations of thy law, and the endearments of thy love, render it our indispensable duty to be faithful in the covenant of our God, and to abound in the work of the Lord. May thy almighty Spirit so write the law of holiness upon our minds, that we may delight in it after the inward man; that it may be our meat and drink to do thy will, our highest pleasure to go about doing good.

Teach us the value of time, and enable us to improve it to the best advantage, in such duties as thou hast assigned us. May we not be slothful in business; but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. To thy glory, O Lord, may the labours of life be pursued; and to thy glory may the refreshments of it be sought and enjoyed. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory.

May our eyes ever be watchful to observe the descent of mercies from Thee: and may a grateful sense of thy hand, and thy love manifested in them, add an unspeakable value to them all. While in this world of trial, may we accustom ourselves to expect

afflictions. And when they come, may we be reconciled to them, by remembering that they come from Thee; and by firmly believing, that it is the same love appoints our daily crosses, which gives us our daily bread. May we learn to take them up, and follow our blessed Lord with a temper like that which he manifested when ascending Calvary for our sakes. Like him may we say in every hour of trial, The cup which my heavenly Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Keep us, O Lord, we pray thee, amidst the temptations to which we are daily exposed; make us sensible of our own weakness, that our hearts may be perpetually raised to Thee for needful supplies of strength. When in society may we watch the door of our lips, that we speak not unadvisedly. Enable us to subdue all passion and ill will. May all around us be the better for us. May we be solicitous daily to be answering the great purposes of life by honouring thee, and diffusing knowledge and happiness in the world. Like our blessed Master may we often retire to pray; and do Thou, our heavenly Father, meet us, and strengthen us with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man.

May we enjoy the pleasure of thy presence, and feel its animating power awakening our souls to an earnest desire to follow Jesus; and, in our imperfect measure, to fulfil all righteousness. Thus may this day, and all our days be spent.

And, O Lord, dispose us seriously to review the actions of every day; and to judge ourselves, as we expect to be judged at last by Thee, who searchest all hearts: that, when our Lord shall come, we may hear that joyful sentence, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Evening.

Jesus, mine advocate above,
  Let me not *hear* of thee alone;
But make the wonders of thy love
  By sweet experience deeply *known*.

On this my faith would fix her eye,
  My lips would taste thy heavenly grace;
Then should I raise thine honour high;
  And teach a thousand tongues thy praise.

The sacred flame from heart to heart,
Should with a rapid progress run;
Till each in God should bear a part,
In sweet communion with his Son.

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

How excellent is thy mercy, O God! and what encouragement hast thou given us to put our trust under the shadow of thy wings! Thou art the bountiful giver of the good that our souls desire, and the merciful withholder of the evil that our sins deserve. From Thee comes all our help; and in Thee may we repose all our hope. We acknowledge thy great and daily goodness to us; and our own absolute unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies.

We would take shame and confusion to ourselves, that we have so little improved, and so greatly abused thy patience with us, and the various instances of thy bounty towards us. Thy very mercies help to aggravate the guilt of our offences; because we have done so much against Thee, after all thou hast done, and art continually doing for us. Make us, O Lord, deeply penitent and humbled for our sins. We entreat

thy gracious favour in Jesus Christ for the pardon of them. Being justified by faith, may we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And as we pray that thou wilt be to us a Father of mercies, and a God of consolation; so also we entreat that thou wouldest make us followers of thee, as dear children. Work in us by thy Holy Spirit that which is well-pleasing in thy sight. Lord, thou knowest our weakness, and the temptations to which we are exposed; our danger from the enemy of souls, and from the present world, which is full of snares; and, above all, from the enemy within—a heart deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Arm us, therefore, we pray Thee, with the whole armour of God; and uphold us with thy free grace, and watch over us for good evermore.

And seeing, O Lord, that thou art yet pleased to hold our souls in life; and to make us feel, by every day's experience, how gracious and merciful thou art; give us hearts more sensible of thy great love to us, more inflamed with love to thee, and more thankful for the blessings thou art pleased to multiply upon us. And cause us to show forth thy praise, not only by speaking good of thy

name, but by ordering our conversation as becomes the gospel of Christ.

To thy mercy do we humbly commend ourselves and ours this night; beseeching thee to visit us with thy salvation, and to preserve us in soul and body from all evils and dangers, to which the weakness of our frame, and the greatness of our sins expose us. May our repose be safe and refreshing; that we may rise better fitted to serve thee according to thy will. And as thou addest days and mercies, add repentance and amendment to our days; that, in proportion as we draw nearer to the grave, our souls may grow fitter for heaven. For which we hope only through the mediation and intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

"Be of good cheer; I have overcome the "world."—John xvi. 33.

Temptations are fiery darts, thorns in the *flesh, buffetings,* fightings, combats, hard*ships, and sufferings.* Christ submitted to

them; because he would humble himself to be made in all things like unto his brethren.

There is no conquest without a combat. Christ submitted to be tempted, that he might overcome the tempter. Satan tempted the first Adam, and triumphed over him: but he was not to triumph *always*. The *second* Adam vanquished him, and led Captivity captive. Let saints remember, that, though their enemy is subtle, yet he is not invincible: though he is a strong man armed, yet the *Captain of our Salvation* is stronger than he. Our great High Priest knows by *experience* what it is to be tempted; and is, therefore, more tenderly touched with the feeling of our infirmities. But it is still more animating to bear in mind that, as Christ when he conquered was conquering for *us;* therefore not only is the enemy with whom we grapple a conquered, baffled, disarmed enemy; but *we* are interested in Christ's victory over him; and, through him, are more than conquerors.

Christ repelled all the temptations of Satan with "It is written." The word of God is the sword of the Spirit; the only *offensive weapon* in the Christian armour. It is *mighty through* God: there is none like *that in our* spiritual conflicts.

The great aim of Satan is to tempt the children of God to throw off their relation to God as their Father; and by this means to cut off their dependence on him, their duty to him, and their communion with him: to persuade them that outward afflictions, wants, and burdens, are reasons for questioning their sonship: as if afflictions could not consist *with* fatherly love; whereas, this is really the source from whence they proceed.

Christ would not command the stones to be made bread, because he would not do anything that looked like distrusting his heavenly Father. Those know how to answer Satan's temptations, who with holy Job can say, though "he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

"Behold! angels came and ministered unto him." Behold, and rejoice, Christian! that, though there is a world of wicked, malicious spirits, that fight against Christ and his church; yet, so also is there a world of holy and blessed spirits engaged and employed to succour and defend them. Christ's victories are the triumphs of angels. They come to rejoice with him, and to give him the glory due unto his name. Thus was Christ *signalized, and* made great in the invisible *world by the voice* of the Father, the desce

of the Spirit, his victory over devils, and his dominion over angels. Thus was he qualified to appear in the invisible world, as the Mediator between God and man: and thus is he become the Captain of our salvation.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

For ever blessed be the Lord,
My Saviour and my shield;
He sends his Spirit with his word
To arm me for the field.

When sin and hell their force unite
He makes my soul his care;
Instructs me in the heavenly fight,
And guards me through the war.

A friend and helper so divine
Doth my weak courage raise;
He makes the glorious victory mine,
And his shall be the praise.

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

O God of all grace, and giver of every good and perfect gift, we humbly beseech thee to pour upon us this morning the spirit of grace and supplication. May our hearts,

as well as our lips, be engaged in worshipping, praising, and adoring Thee—the Lord of our life, the source of our mercies, and the God of our salvation in Christ Jesus.

As the light of the morning has chased away the darkness of the night, so, O Sun of righteousness, do thou arise upon our souls; and dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief from our minds; and enable us to walk as the children of the light and of the day. Thou hast mercifully said, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Draw us and we shall run after thee. The power is thine, Oh bestow it upon us, that we may live according to thy gospel, and enjoy thy presence, peace, and love. In whatsoever work we shall be called to engage this day, may we serve thee therein, aim at thy glory in all things, and do nothing contrary to thy holy will.

O gracious Lord, leave us not to ourselves; for it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Let us not follow our own natural spirit, nor lean to our own understanding; but clothe us with humility; make us jealous and watchful over ourselves, and dependent on thee alone to save us from all the evil that surrounds us, and from all that

dwells within us. It is our undeserved privilege to bear the Christian name. O convince us of the danger of resting satisfied with the name, without experiencing the inward life and power of the Spirit of Christ upon our souls; since thy word assures us, that if we have not the Spirit of Christ, we are none of his. May we more and more admire that lowliness of mind, that tender and compassionate charity, that meekness, patience, and forgiveness, which shone in all his sufferings. Subdue our will into a quiet and ready submission to thy holy will in all things. Fulfil in us, O Lord, thy precious promises, saying "I will dwell in them, and walk in them;" "I will be unto them a God, and they shall be unto me a people;" "They shall all know me, from the least unto the greatest;" "for they shall all be taught of God." May our souls hunger and thirst after the sweet experience of these blessings.

Constrained by thy mercies, O Lord, may we present ourselves living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto thee, through our great High Priest, who ever liveth to make intercession for us; and in whom we desire to be found, now, and for ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
  And press with vigour on;
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
  And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around,
  Hold thee in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
  And onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all animating voice
  That calls thee from on high;
'Tis his own hand presents the prize
  To thine aspiring eye.

Blest Saviour! introduc'd by thee,
  Have I my race begun;
And, crown'd with vict'ry, at thy feet
  I'll lay mine honours down.

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

O God, the creator of all mankind, who *dst not only rest* on the seventh day from *thy labours* and pronounce them good;

but also didst in mercy set apart one day in seven, that we thy creatures might wait on thee without distraction; we beseech thee to impress upon our hearts, that the morrow is the Sabbath of the Lord our God. May we rest from our own works, and from all worldly thoughts and cares; and may our hearts be entirely engaged in thy worship and service. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day; and may his holy influences abide with us when we return to the duties of life. O prepare us according to the preparation of the sanctuary, with a serious, reverent, and spiritual mind. May we hunger for the bread of life; and thirst after the living waters of thy grace: looking to the light of thy countenance for joy and gladness.

If any of us are among the weary and heavy laden, may we find rest unto our souls in the living pastures of thy sanctuary. Is our burden a heart of unbelief? May the Saviour by his Spirit say unto us, Wherefore dost thou doubt? If sin is the burden of our souls, may we be enabled to leave it by faith at the foot of the cross. We thank thee that we are invited to come to a throne of grace, *that we* may obtain mercy to pardon, and *grace to help* in time of need.

O pour upon u the spirit of grace and of

supplication: and suffer not the approaching Sabbath to be spent as, alas! too many of those which are past have been. Help us to look forward with pleasure to those precious means of grace which it may afford. And though we are utterly unworthy to tread thy courts, or to join thy people in the blessed exercises of prayer and praise, O feed our souls with the bread of life, and clothe us with the garments of salvation.

We are now one week nearer to our latter end: put us in remembrance, O Lord, that days and weeks, as they pass on, bring us nearer to death and judgment. May each of us remember, that in the midst of life we are in death; that the approaching Sabbath may be our last. We deserve not to be favoured with another sabbath; we deserve not to have our day of grace lengthened. But spare us, good Lord: and if our ears have been hitherto shut against the sound of thy gospel, may we hear and live. May the eyes that have been closed against the light of the gospel be opened; and the hearts blinded and hardened by sin be made by thy grace to see and feel. May the lukewarm be quickened, and all who are planted in the house of the Lord flourish in the courts of our God. May their faith, and love, and hope, and joy in-

crease; and prepare them more and more for the bliss and praise of heaven; where the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto living fountains of water.

Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and for ever. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

THE LAMB OF GOD.

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away "the sin of the world."—John i. 29.

The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world: the Lamb signified by all the sacrifices of the law: the Lamb accepted by the Father, in whom he is well pleased; in whom justice is satisfied, and mercy granted.

May our eyes look stedfastly on him, and fix upon him our faith, our hope, and our love, as the only way to the Father; as the only way in which our guilt can be washed away, and our robes made white. Let us look at him, and wonder at his love to man; and love him because he first loved us. Let us go to him as the way, the truth, and the life: the true and the living way to the Father.

Is our heart pressed down even to despondency under the guilt of sin, so that we *cry, "How can such a sinner be pardoned? My sin is greater than can be forgiven!"*

"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!" "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." Do we complain of the hardness of our hearts, and want of love to Christ? Behold him as offered up to God for us; and such a sight, if any, will melt our hard hearts. "They shall look on me whom they have pierced and shall mourn."

Do you at any time find your hearts fretting, disquieted, and impatient under every cross and trial? See how patiently, meekly, and quietly Christ, your sacrifice, came to the altar, and bore your sins and your sorrows. "For he was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Whatever corruption may burden us, a believing application of this will afford support. Whatever grace is deficient, this will revive it. Blessed Jesus! we thank thee for the kind memorials thou hast left us of thy love. May this love draw us to thy table. There we can see thee as a sacrifice; and by faith can eat of that flesh, and drink of that blood, which are offered for the life of our souls. There may we hear thee say, "Be not faithless, but believing." Can we thus remember thee, and forget our own guilt? Can we thus remember thee at thy table, and again

and again forget thee? O what a feast of love might this be to a believing soul! Lord, give us to taste that thy flesh is meat indeed, and thy blood is drink indeed. O let us say from the bottom of our hearts, Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. And with thy saints here let us sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength. Honour, and glory, and blessing be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain,
Could give the guilty conscience peace,
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ the heavenly Lamb
Takes all our sins away:
A sacrifice of nobler name,
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of thine,
While like a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burdens thou didst bear,
When hanging on the accursed tree,
And hopes her guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice,
And sing his bleeding love.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Glorious Jehovah! Thou art infinitely above the praises of angels, and much more of sinful mortals. They that are far from thee shall perish; but it is good for us to draw nigh to thee. Thy mercy has appointed this holy day, that thy love and praise may employ our minds, and be a foretaste of our eternal rest. O breathe upon us the spirit of light, life, and love; quicken us to this heavenly work, and accept us in it through thy dear Son. We adore thee as the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. How manifold are thy works, O Lord! in wisdom hast thou made them all. Thou hast made man "but a little lower than the angels," even with capacities for knowing, loving, and

serving thee. Thou wast his father, benefactor, and chief good, to engage him to thyself in resignation, love, and obedience. But man by departing from thee, did foolishly requite the Lord, and forsake the rock of his salvation. Sin entered into the world, and death by sin. Yet, blessed be thy name, thou didst add to the sentence of death the promise of a Redeemer. Adored be our Emanuel! He came as the light and life of the world. He taught us by his perfect doctrine and example. He made himself, by his sufferings and death, a sacrifice and propitiation for our sins. Now, O Father, "there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." O that our souls could with greater thankfulness magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour. Thou art to be reverenced in the assemblies of thy saints, and to be honoured of all that are about thee.

Assist us in all the religious services of this holy day. Let thy gracious presence go with us to the solemn assembly. Help us against our manifold infirmities, and the sins that more easily beset us, in our attendance upon thee. Let thy word be as good seed in our hearts, taking root, and bringing forth fruit to thy glory, and our eternal salvation. Let our prayers and praises be spiritual sa-

crifices, acceptable in thy sight through Jesus Christ.

This day ride forth in the chariot of thy everlasting gospel, conquering and to conquer. Let heathen nations be brought to acknowledge their Creator, and Redeemer. In all thy churches let the arm of the Lord be revealed, sinners be converted, and saints be edified in their most holy faith. Continue the gospel in our own land, and give it more abundant success. Make the ministers of the gospel faithful to Christ and souls; as those that must give an account, *that they may do it with joy, and not with grief.*

Heal the sick; ease the pained; succour the tempted; supply the necessitous; be a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow in thy holy habitation. If afflictions detain any from the public solemnities of thy day, let them enjoy thy gracious presence in their own dwellings. Fit the dying for a glorious sabbath above, complete the number of thine elect, and fit them for thy heavenly kingdom.

Blessed be God, that we are in health and comfort to engage in the duties, and enjoy the *privileges of this* sabbath. Leave us not to *wandering thoughts* and affections. But let *our conversation* be in heaven, from whence

we look for our glorious Redeemer, whom having not seen, we love; in whom, though now we see him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. For his sake we beseech thee to hear us, and do for us abundantly above all that we can ask, conceive, or think! Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Come let us join our cheerful songs
  With angels round the throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
  But all their joys are one.

Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry,
  To be exalted thus:
Worthy the Lamb, our lips reply,
  For he was slain for us.

Jesus is worthy to receive
  Honour and power divine,
And blessings more than we can give,
  Be, Lord, for ever thine.

The whole creation join in one,
  To bless the sacred name
Of him that sits upon the throne,
  And to adore the Lamb.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

O Lord our God, who hast remembered us in our low estate, and given thy well beloved Son to be a ransom for our souls; we desire to draw nigh to thee on this evening of thine own day. We would with the hosts of heaven fall down before thee, saying, Blessing, and glory, and honour, and power, be unto thee for ever and ever. We would unite with the redeemed before the throne, in ascribing salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. How wonderful have been the designs of thy love, and the counsels of thy wisdom! May our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour. Father of mercies, prepare our hearts to embrace this thine unspeakable gift. O, thou great Lord and lover of souls, remember us with the favour which thou bearest to thy people, and visit us with thy salvation. Blessed Saviour, be thou an effectual Saviour to us. Thou didst bear our sins in thine own body on the tree; may we flee to thee for refuge from the wrath to come, and lay hold on the hope set before us. Thou tookest our nature, that we might partake of

thine. O let us, then, experience the mighty power of thy grace! Let it heal our depraved natures: let it sanctify our sinful souls: let it make us lovers and followers of thy holy ways. Thou camest down to earth, to raise us up to heaven. O set our affections on things above. May we in heart and mind thither ascend where thou art gone before to prepare a place for us; and may the great things which accompany salvation be multiplied unto us exceedingly, through the knowledge of our incarnate Lord.

Heavenly Father, our souls would especially bless thee for the mercies which we have experienced this day:—for thy house open to us; for the word of salvation sounding in our ears; and for thy blessed Spirit striving with our hearts. O may we not receive this grace in vain: let us not provoke thee to withdraw thy tender mercies from us. But cause us to grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In mercy pardon all which thy pure and holy eyes have seen amiss this day in our thoughts or desires, our words or actions, for the sake of our great Mediator, who ever lives at thy right hand to make intercession for us. *To him, as the blessed* author of our hopes *and happiness;* and to Thee, who didst

vouchsafe to deliver him up for us all; and to the ever blessed Spirit, who reveals him to us, be all praise, and honour, and glory, humbly and heartily ascribed by us, and by all thy church, now and for evermore. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

THE LIVING SACRIFICE.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the "mercies of God, that ye present your bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, "which is your reasonable service."—Rom. xii. 1.

Do we live, and move, and have our being in God? and dare we refuse to be *His*, to live to *Him*, and to move only in obedience to him and dependance upon him? Shall we dare to deny the Lord who bought us, who redeemed us to God by his own blood; who died and rose again, that henceforth we should not live to ourselves, but to him; that he might be our *Lord*, both in life and in death? A *living* sacrifice must be a *willing* sacrifice. Were we *not lost?* Are we not rescued in the most

costly way? To us, it is true, without cost; but most costly to our *Redeemer*. Is it a small thing, that he offers himself to us in all his fulness, without money, and without price? saying, "Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price!" Is it a small thing, that he should thus expostulate with us, "Wherefore do ye spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live." Is it a small thing, that He in whom is all the fulness of God, having first offered himself *for* us, now offers himself *to* us; that he hath treated us hitherto with such indulgence; waited on us with such enduring patience; sustained us by such liberal bounty? And now, when we should be communing with our own hearts, and asking ourselves, "What shall we render unto the Lord?"—that *he* should say to us so concisely, and yet so comprehensively, "Present yourselves." Is that too much? Are we *too inconsiderable* to be his? or are his mercies *too inconsiderable* to constrain us to be so

—the mercies that flow so freely from him, who is indeed the Father of mercies?—the mercies that are so suitable to us; pardon to the guilty; light to them that dwell in darkness; life to the dead; a rich portion, and all-sufficient fulness for the poor, indigent, and necessitous.—The mercies that we are encouraged to *expect*, as well as those which we *enjoy*. The great good laid up in store. The mercies of *eternity*, added to those of *time*. The mercies of both worlds meeting upon us! Have you heard this gracious invitation? and has your heart consented? Often reflect upon it, and bethink yourself what you have done, and whose you now are. I, who was *once* afar off, am brought nigh; once alienated from the life of God, but *now* holiness to the Lord. Let us then glorify God with our bodies and with our spirits, which are his; may we glorify him *here*, and enjoy him for ever *in heaven*.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

THE LIVING SACRIFICE.

Saviour of men, and Lord of love,
How sweet thy gracious name!
With joy that errand we review,
On which thy mercy came.

For us mean, wretched, sinful men,
Thou laid'st thy glory by;
First in our mortal flesh to serve,
Then in that flesh to die.

Bought with thy service and thy blood,
We doubly, Lord, are thine;
To thee our lives we would devote,
To thee our deaths resign.

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

O most blessed God, thou art the great source of being and happiness; the nearer we are to thee, the more pure and delightful is the stream. "With thee is the fountain of life, in thy light may we see light." Give us, we beseech thee, the blessedness of the man who feareth the Lord, and delighteth greatly in his commandments. So form our hearts by thy grace, that, from day to day, we may set thee, the Lord, always before us, and live in thy fear all the day long.

To thee may our waking thoughts be directed; and with the first ray of light that visits our opening eyes, do thou, O Lord, graciously lift up upon us the light of thy countenance. O enable us to pour out our souls before thee with filial reverence, humility,

freedom, and affection. With hearts filled with gratitude, would we praise thee for past mercies; and in the exercise of a lively faith implore the fresh blessings which every returning day requires.

We desire with cheerfulness daily to renew the dedication of ourselves to thee, through thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we love to meditate on thy Holy Word, and attentively hearken to its instructions; that we may know what thou wouldest have us to do. Enable us to hide it in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee; and earnestly to seek fresh supplies of thy blessed Spirit, that we may be quickened in all the duties which it enjoins. Thus prepared, may we, O Lord, be led forth to all the duties of this day; and may it be our delight to do thy blessed will. Let our offerings of love and praise be lively, willing offerings: the desire of our souls, and the joy of our hearts; that, instead of dishonouring thee by lifeless services, we may abound in thy work, and be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Make us also faithful in all our intercourse with those around us: ready to do good, and to bear evil: *just and kind,* merciful and meek, peaceable *and patient,* sober and self-denying, inoffen*sive and exemplary* in our conduct: that so

glorifying thee while upon earth, we may, at our departure hence, be received through thy mercy into the joy of our Lord, and be for ever glorified in thy heavenly kingdom. Let no temptations draw us, nor any tribulations drive us from thee: but let all thy dispensations be received as messengers of thy love to our souls. May all thy dealings with us bring us nearer to thyself, and make us fitter for thy blissful presence. O leave us not, neither forsake us; but be our guide unto death, in death our comfort, and after death our everlasting portion; through the atonement and merits of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour.

HYMN

For Monday Evening.

When I survey the wondrous cross
  On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
  And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
  Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
  I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
  Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet?
  Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
  That were an off'ring far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
  Demands my soul, my life, my all.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

Infinite and everlasting God, the great Creator of the heavens and of the earth, and of all things visible and invisible, we unworthy sinners desire to approach thee, through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ;—that blessed way of thine own appointment. May our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as an acceptable evening sacrifice. Blessed be thy name, O thou never failing source of goodness and mercy, for the preservation and favours of another day; and that no afflictive and melancholy providence prevents our meeting together this evening in a comfortable manner at thy throne of grace. May we with one consent call upon our souls to

bless thee, who loadest us daily with thy benefits, feedest us with food convenient for us, and continuest to us our daily comforts, redeeming our lives from destruction, and crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. May we shew forth thy praise not only with our lips, but by a life devoted to thy service.

Forgive us, gracious God, that our hearts have hitherto been so little affected with thy goodness, and our consequent obligations to love and serve thee. Forgive, that when we have known our duty we have neglected to practise it; and especially that we have so often acted directly contrary to it. Innumerable are our offences; and they are aggravated, O Lord, by being committed against the clearest light, and strongest love.

This day has witnessed to thy mercies and to our follies: a slight review at the close of even our best days convinces us how very defective we are, in comparison of what we might be. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners, for Jesus Christ's sake. Father, forgive us, though we have sinned against heaven, and before thee.

And, Oh that, as the shadows of one evening after another are stretching themselves over us, our thoughts may be more steadily and seriously fixed on the approaching ni-

of death, and the succeeding day of judgment! May we be above all things concerned to stand prepared for our departure hence,—that we may be found of Christ in peace when he appeareth. Thy word assures us, that when that awful morning shall dawn, many shall wish to have lain still in everlasting night; and shall call to the mountains and to the rocks to fall on them, and hide them from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. And, O Lord, shall any in our family be of this wretched number? O God forbid! To prevent so dreadful an end, help us, O Lord, to examine ourselves now. May we never be satisfied in any state or course of life, which is inconsistent with the sincerity and holiness which the Gospel requires at thy tribunal. O thou great searcher of hearts, do thou still more thoroughly search us and try us: see if there be any wicked way in us, discover it to us, and lead us in the way of life everlasting: that so, when day and night shall cease, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, we may lift up our heads with joy, knowing that our redemption draweth nigh. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Tuesday Morning.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence "to make your calling and election sure: for if ye "do these things ye shall never fall: For so an en-"trance shall be ministered unto you abundantly, "into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and "Saviour Jesus Christ."—2 Pet. i. 10, 11.

How active and anxious are men in pursuing the things of the world; but how unconcerned and inactive in the ways of grace and holiness! Christians, however, should remember, that the promises of God are made not to the slothful and the idle, but to the laborious and diligent Christian. It is of him only who keeps his words, that the Son has said, "My Father will love him, and we will make our abode with him."

It is the will of God, that the hearts of his people should be warm and fervent in religious exercises. That service which hath not heavenly warmth is no service. Lukewarmness God cannot endure; but, as he forewarned the church at Laodicea, rejects with holy disgust. Let the slothful Christian remember, that God loves activity in duty, and promises that, while the soul of the

sluggard desireth and hath nothing, "the soul of the diligent shall be made fat." It is only the energetic fervent prayer that availeth much.

If we would wear the crown, the race must be run. If we would share the triumph, the good fight must be fought, and the victory won. He that would know, must follow on to know the Lord. He that would make his calling and election sure, and would never fall, but have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, must give diligence thereto, and work out his salvation with fear and trembling.

Do you, then, complain of want of assurance? Be no longer formal, listless, and superficial in prayer. Stir up yourselves, and exert all your energies in seeking and serving the Lord; and then you shall soon have such communications from heaven, as will fill you with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Stand up, my soul, shake off thy fears,
And gird the Gospel armour on;
March to the gates of endless joy,
Where thy great Captain Saviour's gone.

Hell and thy sins resist thy course;
But hell and sin are vanquish'd foes;
Thy Jesus nail'd them to the cross,
And sung the triumph when he rose.

What though the prince of darkness rage,
And waste the fury of his spite;
Eternal chains confine him down
To fiery deeps and endless night.

What though thine inward lusts rebel,
'Tis but a struggling gasp for life;
The weapons of victorious grace
Shall slay thy sins, and end the strife.

Then let my soul march boldly on,
Press forward to the heavenly gate;
There peace and joy eternal reign,
And glitt'ring robes for conquerors wait.

There shall I wear a starry crown,
And triumph in Almighty grace;
While all the armies of the skies,
Join in my glorious Leader's praise.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

FOR HOLINESS.

O Almighty and Eternal God, who is like *unto thee, glorious* in holiness, fearful in *praises, doing* wonders? "Thou art of purer

eyes than to behold iniquity, neither shall sin dwell with thee." We desire to approach thy Divine Majesty profoundly adoring thine infinite hatred of sin, thine inflexible determination to punish it; and thine awful justice manifested in the sacrifice of thy beloved Son, that he might be a propitiation for our sins. We would adore thy glorious holiness as shewn in the coming of Jesus Christ to put away sin, to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to purify us unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. O our God, create us anew in Christ Jesus, and cause us to hunger and thirst after righteousness. O let our hearts be right with thee, before whom we appear without disguise, and who cannot be deceived by the most specious pretences to piety.

Let the knowledge of thy holiness and grace teach us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts; and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. O mortify and destroy in us every rebellious disposition, every vicious inclination, that exalts itself against the holy precepts of thy gospel, that gives Satan advantage over us, and hinders our blessed Redeemer from reigning as King supreme in our hearts. Let not sin reign any longer in our mortal bodies, that we should

obey it in the lusts thereof: but help us, Lord, to renounce every idol, though dear as a right hand or right eye, and tear it from thy throne; to keep under our body, and bring it into subjection. Help us, O God of our salvation, against the sins that most easily beset us. Let not sinful flesh, but thy heavenly Spirit and grace guide and govern us. Gird us, O our God, with might for the spiritual conflict we are called to maintain; and enable us to go on conquering every spiritual adversary. O make us ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways. Mortify our pride, and clothe us with humility; subdue our passions, and put on us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; pluck up every root of bitterness out of our minds; and make us kind, tender-hearted, as becomes the followers of Jesus. May we put on the Lord Jesus, not in name and profession only, but also so walk even as he walked. We would put on his purity, his self-denial, his meekness, his patience, his bowels of kindness, his submission to his heavenly Father's will, his love to God and man. Thus may we shew forth thy praise, making it evident that thou hast called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light, and *translated us out of* the kingdom of Satan into *the kingdom of thy* dear Son. Thus may we

be training up for that state where holiness shall be perfected, where we shall behold thy face in righteousness, and be satisfied when we awake in thy likeness.

Let holiness to the Lord be written upon this house, and upon every heart under this roof. Let sin have no dominion here; but let every soul be a temple for thy Holy Spirit to dwell in. Here let the fruits of righteousness grow to thy praise and glory; and may we all at last appear among the redeemed of the Lord, "who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Amen.

HYMN

For Tuesday Evening.

O may our lips and lives express
The holy gospel we profess;
O may our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine.

Thus shall we best proclaim abroad
The honours of our Saviour God;
When thy salvation reigns within,
And grace subdues the power of sin.

Our flesh and sense must be denied,
Passion and envy, lust and pride;
While justice, temp'rance, truth, and love,
Our inward piety approve.

Thy promise bears our spirits up,
While we expect that blessed hope—
The bright appearance of the Lord,
And Faith stands leaning on his word.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

O Lord of heaven and earth, we desire again to prostrate ourselves before thee; and to join that holy company who rest not day and night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Blessed be thy divine goodness, which has made the children of men but little lower than the angels; and crowned us with such glory and honour, that we are capable of accompanying the heavenly hosts, in giving continual thanks and praise to thee. Praised be thy name for all the comforts of this life, and for the hopes of eternal blessedness in that which is to come, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. O how great was thy love, which sent him into the world to

direct us in the way to that happiness, by his holy doctrine and life; to be a propitiation for our sins by his death; and to be the first that should rise from the dead, and shew light unto the world. We rejoice in that light of life; we desire most cheerfully to devote ourselves to be the faithful disciples of the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Life and Glory. It is our happiness, as well as our duty, to be governed by him, and obey his commands. We are sensible they are all wise and good; and that it is in love and kindness thou hast taught us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the world. And, therefore, we would most heartily surrender our wills to thine, desiring that we may cleave to thee with the most entire love and affection to all thy commands. O that there may abide in us such a strong and powerful sense of thy mighty love towards us in Christ Jesus, as may constrain us freely and willingly to please thee in the constant exercise of piety and devotion, righteousness and mercy, meekness and patience, truth and fidelity; such a humble, contented, and peaceable spirit, as may adorn the religion of our Lord and Master. O God, grant that these holy desires and inclinations may never die nor languish in our hearts: but may they

be kept alive in their vigour and force by the perpetual inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

With these holy thoughts and desires, we would now commend ourselves to thy protection this night, who hast preserved and blessed us during the past day. We repose in the belief of thy good providence, to which we thankfully entrust ourselves and all belonging to us. We would lie down to sleep with hearts full of love to thee, and humble faith and hope in thee: and when we awake may we be still with thee. Dispose us, O Lord, by the rest thou givest us, to serve thee more zealously with our renewed spirits; and mercifully grant, that, after the few days and nights we have to pass in this world, we may come to thy eternal rest with Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

THE APPROPRIATION OF FAITH.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever."—Psalm xlviii. 14.

By faith the Christian is enabled to behold *God in Christ, in* a way of holy appropriatio

and delight. The ground of this claim is the covenant grant and promise through the eternal Son. If thou hast thus fixed thy claim unto God in Christ, proceed to take a view of all his attributes and perfections: for each of them is a rock on which thou mayest build with the greatest comfort and security. Thou mayest say, My God is a God of infinite power: I will not fear: he will hide me as in a pavilion in the evil day. He is a God of infinite wisdom; and, therefore, he will lead me in the way I know not, and make me wise unto salvation. He is a God of infinite justice; and, therefore, having accepted Christ as my sacrifice, he will blot out my iniquities as a cloud. He is a God of unspotted holiness; and will sanctify me according to his covenant, and sprinkle clean water upon me, and I shall be clean. He is a God of infinite mercies; and will pity me, and pardon me, and hear me when I cry. He is a God of infinite faithfulness; and, therefore, his covenant will he not break, nor alter the thing which hath gone out of his lips.

Thus faith rests on all the divine attributes, as they are manifested in Christ; and discovers treasures which can never be exhausted or diminished. Finally, it contemplates the whole providence of God, as de-

signed for the advancement of his own glory, and the good of those that love him. And this calms and satisfies the soul amidst all the reelings and shakings of this lower world: and assures the Christian of an eternity of happiness in the immediate fruition and enjoyment of his Lord. "My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

My God, my Father, blissful name!
  O may I call thee mine:
May I with sweet assurance claim
  A portion so divine.

This only can my fears controul,
  And bid my sorrows fly;
What harm can ever reach my soul
  Beneath my Father's eye?

Whate'er thy providence denies,
  I calmly would resign;
For thou art good, and just, and wise,
  O bend my will to thine.

Whate'er thy sacred will ordains,
  O give me strength to bear;
And let me know my Father reigns,
  And trust his tender care.

My God, my father, be thy name
  My solace and my stay;
O come and seal my humble claim,
  And drive my fears away.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

O most glorious and eternal Majesty, who art God over all, blessed for ever and ever, whom all the hosts of heaven worship and adore; we desire with the greatest fervency of spirit, and in the most devout and humble manner, to acknowledge our obligations to love and serve thee.

But, alas! we are unprofitable servants; our provocations against thee are increased, and our trespasses are grown up even unto the heavens. We have lived to ourselves, instead of living unto him who died for us and rose again. We have not, as we ough to have done, glorified thee in our bodies an in our spirits which are thine.

And since it is not in man to recover a save himself; O enable us to look unto th in whom alone our help lies. In the name *Jesus we* come to thy throne of grace, hop *to obtain mercy*, and find grace to help in *of need.* For his sake we humbly er

thy favour and the light of thy countenance; praying thee to be reconciled to us, and to be at peace with us, as a Father of mercies and a God of all consolation.

Lord, enable us to walk as becomes those upon whom thy name is called. May we be followers of Christ, as dear children; and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May thy almighty Spirit so write the law of holiness upon our minds, that it may be our meat and drink to do thy will; that we may hate all iniquity, and every false way; and resemble the blessed Jesus as our pattern, while we trust in his merits as our propitiation.

Lord, make our services acceptable to thee while we live, and our souls ready for thee when we die. As long as we are in the world, keep us from the evil of it; and from the snares and dangers to which we are continually exposed in our passage through it. O make our pilgrimage safe and sure through all the troubles, changes, and temptations of this mortal life, to the unchangeable glories and felicities of the life everlasting.

Be merciful to us this day. Keep us in all our ways; bless all our lawful undertakings; *and grant that* we may do nothing but what *s acceptable in* thy sight. Set thy fear befor

our eyes all the day long; and put thy love into our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. Bless and preserve us in our going out and our coming in. May the angel of thy presence save us from all sin and danger. Hear and answer us, O Lord, for the sake of him who hath loved and redeemed us, even the Lord our righteousness; to whom be ascribed the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

With joy we meditate the grace
  Of our high-priest above;
His heart is made of tenderness,
  His bowels melt with love.

Touch'd with a sympathy within,
  He knows our feeble frame;
He knows what sore temptations mean,
  For he has felt the same.

He in the days of feeble flesh
  Pour'd out his cries and tears;
And in his measure feels afresh
  What every member bears.

He'll never quench the smoking flax,
  But raise it to a flame;
The bruised reed he never breaks,
  Nor scorns the meanest name.

Then let our humble faith address
  His mercy and his power;
We shall obtain delivering grace
  In the distressing hour.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

O thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, how precious are thy thoughts towards us, how great is the sum of them! This day, and every day of our lives, we have largely experienced thy mercy, and lived still upon thy fatherly care and bounty. Thou renewest thy favours continually, and art still pouring upon us innumerable benefits. And, O our God, we esteem it one of the greatest of thy favours, that we have liberty to come into thy presence, to call thee Father, and to make known our requests to thee by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. We would, O Lord, accept with all thankfulness this thy great grace and loving kindness to us; and again we prostrate ourselves befor

thee this evening, to acknowledge thy goodness in making us capable of knowing and loving thee. To thee, therefore, be given by us and by all thy creatures honour and praise, love and obedience, as long as we have any being.

To thee would we devoutly resign both soul and body, to be governed and ruled according to thy holy will and pleasure. We are heartily sorry that we have not done it from the beginning of our lives till this time. We are ashamed to think of our ingratitude in following our own desires so long. We have done those things which we ought not to have done; and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and there is no health in us. But our hope is in that infinite mercy that has spared us so long. Open our eyes, we beseech thee, to see our transgressions; and touch our hearts with sorrow for sin. All our hope is in that love that has redeemed us with so rich a price.

We earnestly implore, according to thy promise in Christ Jesus, not only pardon, but also the powerful assistance of thy Holy Spirit to enable us to live as becomes thy children and the disciples of thy Son. O that it may ever be the joy of our hearts to be righteous as thou art righteous; to be merciful as thou our hea-

venly Father art merciful; to be holy as thou who hast called us art holy in all manner of conversation. May the memory of our blessed Saviour, and his admirable example, be ever dear to us; that we may cheerfully follow him in his humility, meekness, and patience, and delight to do thy will, O God, in every thing as he did.

Accept our thanks for thy merciful preservation of us through this day. We come before thee, O Lord, with a new load of thy benefits added to all the blessings thou hast formerly bestowed upon us.

Again we would humbly commit ourselves to thy protection this night; and trust in thy care, when we cannot take care of ourselves. Defend us from all evil; and raise us up in the morning in such a sense of thy goodness, as shall encourage us to persevere with unwearied diligence in well doing. Give us grace to behave ourselves aright in our several relations; that we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things: and having done thy will here, by thy grace assisting us, may receive immortal honour and glory hereafter from the hands of Jesus Christ, our merciful Redeemer. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

STRONG FAITH.

"O woman, great is thy faith!"—Matt. xv. 28.

What an honour is here put upon faith! and how great its efficacy! The Son of God is pleased to represent himself as even overcome, as conquered by it. Lord, increase my faith, and make it thus victorious. Let me consider the character of this faith. It was strong, it was humble, it was persevering.

Faith is the great foundation-stone of the heavenly building; upon that we build our knowledge of God,—of all he is, and of all that he has done. It is faith that sets the seal to the truth of God's word, to the truth of his promise. It is faith that overcomes the world. A weak faith will yield and give way like the waves under the feet of Peter; and leave us to sink when we need its support. A weak and wavering faith is like the waves of the sea tossed to and fro, uncertain where to fix, or on what to rest. Lord, let my faith be the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Though the inheritance is out of sight; though the glory promised is

ill to come; yet faith tells me it is secure. ay I feel its full, its attractive force. May ith set it before my eyes. May I find it ipply the place of presence, of possession, of ght. By faith may my understanding be irected, my will determined, my affections oved, and my life governed. By this heaenly light may my darkness be done away, id my soul illuminated. Heavenly Father, ive me eyes to see the glorious things which re set before me in thy gospel, and let me alk in this light.

HYMN

For Thursday Morning.

Faith adds new charms to earthly bliss,
  And saves us from its snares;
Its aid in every duty brings,
  And softens all my cares:

Extinguishes the thirst of sin,
  And lights the sacred fire
Of love to God and heavenly things,
  And feeds the pure desire.

The wounded conscience knows its power
  The healing balm to give;
That balm the saddest heart can cheer,
  And make the dying live.

Wide it unveils celestial worlds,
  Where deathless pleasures reign;
And bids me seek my portion there:
  Nor bids me seek in vain.

Shews me the precious promise seal'd
  With the Redeemer's blood;
And helps my feeble hope to rest
  Upon a faithful God.

PRAYER

For Thursday Morning.

O most gracious Father, encouraged by thy precepts and promises, and by the mediation of thy dear Son, we would make known our requests unto thee by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. We desire to bless thee, O Lord, for this great and undeserved privilege of access unto thee; and to acknowledge that it is our best business and comfort to worship thee daily in our family.

We thank thee for making us capable of knowing and loving, serving and enjoying thee. And adored be thy mercy, that though by our apostacy from thee, we have destroyed *ourselves;* yet in thee may help be found. *We thank thee* for laying help for us upon one *that is mighty* and able to save to the utter-

most all that come unto God by him. We thank thee, if Christ, and salvation by him, have been made in any degree precious to our souls. O how great thy patience and long suffering mercy, which spared our lives while we were going in the paths of the destroyer! O how wonderful is thy loving kindness, if any of us have been brought to a serious sense of our past sinfulness, awakened to true repentance, and enabled to seek after peace with thee, and the enjoyment of thy favour, as our highest happiness!

But we have ill requited thee for all thy goodness and love; the sins of our hearts and lives, of our childhood, youth and riper years, testify against us. Long did we forget God and our souls, Christ and eternity, and live in ignorance and unbelief. Long were we deceived by earthly vanities; and too long did we resist the motions of thy Holy Spirit. Too often, alas! even since we have known thee and engaged ourselves to thee, have we returned to folly, and have been negligent in loving and serving thee.

But, glory be to thy name, there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. O wash us in the blood of thy dear Son, sanctify us by his Spirit, and accept us in his merits. We dare not draw nigh to thee, but

in the name of Christ; nor expect any mercy but for his sake. O Holy Spirit, dwell in our hearts by faith, fill us with heavenly love, and strengthen us for all holy obedience. Let our thoughts and affections be fixed on God and Christ, on divine precepts and promises. Let grace regulate and sanctify all our words and actions, our senses, appetites, and passions. Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to do all the good in our power, both to their souls and bodies. Take away our pride, and clothe us with humility; and put upon us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Deliver us from every snare of sin, and every hurtful lust. Especially save us from the sin that most easily besets us.

We humbly thank thee for our safety an repose during the last night; and the healt and comfort we enjoy this morning. Keep u in thy fear, faith, and love, all this day. Gra us to grow in grace, and the knowledge of o Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Make faithful, diligent, and circumspect in all duties of our several places and relations: dispose of all our worldly affairs as shal most for thine own glory, and the welfa our immortal souls. We entreat thee to don our sins, accept our service, and gi answer of peace to our prayers, for th

thy dear Son, our Redeemer and Saviour
ıo has graciously taught us thus to pray;
ır Father, which art in heaven, &c.—
men.

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

O that the Lord would guide my ways
  To keep his statutes still:
O that my God would grant me grace
  To know and do his will.

O send thy Spirit down to write
  Thy law upon my heart:
Nor let my tongue indulge deceit,
  Nor act the liar's part.

From vanity turn off my eyes;
  Let no corrupt design,
Nor covetous desire arise
  Within this soul of mine.

Order my footsteps by thy word,
  And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
  But keep my conscience clear.

My soul hath gone too far astray,
  My feet too often slip:
Yet, since I've not forgot the way,
  Restore thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in thy commands;
'Tis a delightful road:
Nor let my head, or heart, or hands,
Offend against my God.

PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

O thou high and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, whose name is Holy, and who dwellest in the high and holy place! We bless thee for assuring us that thou dost condescend to dwell with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit; to revive the spirit of the humble, and the heart of the contrite ones. Invited by thy goodness, and constrained by our own necessities, we bow before thee, humbly confessing our sins, thankfully acknowledging thy mercies, and earnestly praying for grace to help us in every time of need.

We would lament with the most humble self abasement and contrition of spirit, that we have so long walked contrary to thy holy law, and followed the devices and desires of our own evil hearts: that we have been lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; and have idolized the vanities of a perishing world. We have abused thy patience, forbearance, and long suffering, by which thou

hast been leading us to repentance. We have hardened our hearts against the warnings of thy word and Spirit, thy providence and our own consciences; we have put far from us the day of affliction and death; we have cared more for our frail and dying bodies, than for our immortal souls; and for the things of time, than how to be saved from hell, and live for ever with Christ in heavenly glory. We have contented ourselves with the form of godliness, without the life and power of it.

But, O God, visit our souls with thy forgiving love. Though our sins deserve thine eternal wrath, yet thy well beloved Son hath died for us; and in him there is infinite worthiness. For his sake justify us by thy grace, adopt us into thy family, and make us partakers of the divine nature. May thy Holy Spirit fill our minds with faith and wisdom, and our hearts with holiness and love. Let the thoughts of thy love to us in Christ, of our pardon and peace with thee, and of the promised joys of heaven, be our comfort under all the afflictions and sorrows of life. Teach us to redeem our precious time, to lay up treasure in heaven, and to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting thy gracious promise, that all other things shall be added unto us, so far as they are for

our good and thy glory. Help us to bear every suffering with faith and patience. Make us conquerors over every temptation, and preserve us to thy heavenly kingdom.

Let thy blessing be on this family, on all our cares and concerns. Ever keep us in love and peace, and in every holy duty to thee and to one another. We thank thee for the mercies of our past lives, and particularly of this day. Protect us this night from every evil. Refresh us with rest in sleep. Prepare us for the duties and events of the morrow. May we live every day in thy fear, and to thy glory; that we may live with thee in a glorious eternal day, where there shall be night no more for ever. Hear and answer us in all our imperfect petitions and supplications, for the sake of our all-prevailing Intercessor. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed "*about with* so great a cloud of witnesses, let us

"lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth "so easily beset us, and let us run with patience "the race that is set before us, looking unto "Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." —Hebrews xii. 1—2.

Christians have a race to run; a race of service, and a race of sufferings; a course of obedience, both active and passive. This race is set before them; it is marked out both by the word of God, and the examples of his faithful servants, that cloud of witnesses, with which they are encompassed.

It is set out by proper limits and directions: the mark they run to, and the prize they run for, are set before them. This race must be run with patience and perseverance. There will be need of patience to encounter the difficulties that lie in our way; of perseverance to resist all temptations to desist or turn aside. Faith and patience are the conquering graces; and therefore must always be cultivated and kept in lively exercise. Above all, Christians have the example of the Lord Jesus Christ to animate and encourage them; and they are directed to run, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." He is not only the object of this faith, but *likewise its* author. He is the great *leader and* precedent of our faith; he is the

purchaser of the Spirit of faith; the promulgator of the rule of faith, the efficient cause of the grace of faith. He is likewise the finisher of our faith: the fulfiller of all scripture promises and prophecies: he is the finisher of grace and the work of faith in the souls of his people: and he is the judge and the rewarder of their faith: he determines who are they that reach the mark, and from him and in him they have the prize.

Look unto Jesus; look at the trials he met with in his race and course. "He endured the contradiction of sinners against himself." They were continually opposing him, and crossing his great designs; and though he could easily have confounded them, yet he endured their perverseness and provocations with the greatest patience. "He endured the cross,"—all the sufferings he met with in the world; for he took up his cross betimes; and at length endured that painful, ignominious, and accursed death. "He also despised the shame," and was infinitely superior to all the reproaches that were cast upon him.

Amidst all he had joy—the joy set before him, to make peace between God and man; to *open a way* of salvation, even for the chief of *sinners; and* also that he himself was to rise *from the dead,* "the first-born among many

brethren." And now he is set down at the right-hand of the throne of God. He is exalted to a station of the highest honour, and of the greatest power and influence; and ever lives to make intercession for his people.

Let us then consider him, meditate much upon him, look to him for direction, for assistance, and for acceptance in all our sufferings. If we compare Christ's sufferings with our own, we shall find that they far exceed ours both in nature and in measure. These considerations will be a means to prevent our weariness and fainting; and therefore, it is added, "Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be weary and faint in your minds."

There is a proneness in the best to grow weary, and to faint under their trials and afflictions; especially when they prove heavy, and of long continuance; and the best way to prevent this, is to look unto Jesus and consider him. By faith and meditation we shall obtain fresh supplies of strength, comfort, and courage; for he has assured us, "If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him."

Now to him who hath loved us, and given us everlasting consolation and good hope *through grace*, be everlasting praises. *Amen.*

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

Awake our souls, away our fears,
  Let every trembling thought be gone!
Awake, and run the heavenly race,
  And put a cheerful courage on.

True, 'tis a strait and thorny road,
  And mortal spirits tire and faint:
But they forget the mighty God
  That feeds the strength of every saint:

The mighty God whose matchless pow'r
  Is ever new, and ever young;
And firm endures while endless years
  Their everlasting circles run.

From thee, the everflowing spring,
  Our souls shall drink a fresh supply;
While such as trust their native strength,
  Shall melt away, and droop, and die.

Swift as an eagle cuts the air
  We'll mount aloft to thine abode;
On wings of love our souls shall fly,
  Nor tire amidst the heavenly road.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

Almighty God, the Father of lights, from *whom cometh* down every good and perfec

gift, we bless thee, that through thy tender mercy the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. We thank thee for the gracious assurance of thy beloved Son, our only Lord and Saviour, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness; but shall have the light of life." Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that we may not love darkness rather than light; lest it should turn to our condemnation that light is come into the world. O may we work the work of God, by believing in him whom he hath sent. Teach us to glorify thy name, and to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Deeply impress on our hearts the solemn consideration, that upon this moment of time depends an unchanging eternity; and that our everlasting happiness hangs upon a life so quickly gone, and that will never return. Let us gird up the loins of our minds, and in thy strength prepare in earnest to run the christian race. Are we slothful? Do thou awaken us. Are we burdened with easily besetting sins? O enable us to cast them off, and to *watch unto* prayer.

Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, *and quicken thou* us in thy ways. Make u

as zealous for our God, as we have been eager for the world: and enable us to shew the sincerity of our profession by that zeal and fervour, which are the very life and soul of religion.

O our Father, if we have ever wanted comfort, it is not because thou wantest mercy! if we have ever wanted strength, it is not because thine arm is shortened or thine ear heavy. It has been our own frailty and sin that has hindered and drawn us aside from the christian course. We turned not off our eyes from the vanities that surrounded us. We have given place to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and thus have been burdened and hindered by them. Thy grace it is, O heavenly Father, that has called us to the christian race. O make us so firmly thine, that nothing that befals us in the world may separate us from thee. Let us not be of them that draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hold thou us up, and we shall be safe; and shall have respect unto thy statutes continually. And as we too often renew our sins, gracious Lord, renew us again to repentance. Though we fall, let us not be utterly cast down: but uphold us with thine Almighty hand. O make us faithful unto death, that thou mayest give

us the crown of life. Make us to endure unto the end, that we may be saved; and receive the glorious prize of our high calling, even the salvation of our souls. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Evening.

Ye servants of the Lord,
Each in his office wait
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame:
Gird up your loins, as in his sight;
For awful is his name.

O happy servant he,
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honour crown'd.

Christ shall the banquet spread
With his own royal hand;
And raise that faithful servant's head
Amidst the angelic band.

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

FOR QUICKENING GRACE.

O God of all grace, who hast of thine abounding mercy provided a Saviour for sinners, we come before thee, according to thy command, to supplicate thy grace to work in us to will and do of thy good pleasure; and that thou wouldest give us to believe in Jesus to the saving of our souls. This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. O let us not be alienated from thee through the blindness of our hearts: but shine into our minds to give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory, as seen in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We acknowledge and bewail before thee, O thou all-seeing God, our backwardness to the duties of thy holy service. We should delight in thy law, and serve thee with all gladness of heart, making it our meat and drink to do thy will: but alas, how cold and listless are we in the performance of that which most nearly and eternally concerns us! We are alive to the world, and ever ready to be trans-

ported with the objects of sense; but oh, how heavy and dead in those offices of attendance on our Lord, which are the joy and glory of the hosts of heaven! Truly our souls cleave unto the dust. O quicken us, according to thy word. Quicken us, O Lord, according to thy command, which requires us to be spiritually minded, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Quicken us according to thy promise, that sin shall not have dominion over thy servants; and that thou wilt perfect that which concerneth them. O gracious Lord, be thou pleased to perfect that which concerns our souls. With our whole hearts will we seek thee; O let us not wander from thy commandments. Thy word would we hide in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee. We would delight ourselves in thy statutes, and never forget thy ways. Thy testimonies would we take as our heritage for ever; for they are the rejoicing of our souls. Incline our hearts to perform them always, even unto the end. May we account all things but loss, that we may be found in Christ Jesus our Lord, having the righteousness which is of God by faith. May we be conformed to him in his death, and partake of the power of his resurrection. May we press continually forward to the prize of our high calling, havi

our conversation in heaven; and looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour, who shall change our vile bodies, and fashion them like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able even to subdue all things to himself. Now to him who hath loved us, and given himself for us, be all honour and glory.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

"A peculiar people."—1 Peter, ii. 9.

Distinguished from the rest of the world, not only by their general profession of Christianity; but by the peculiar grace of God bestowed upon them. By their peculiarly lively faith in the Redeemer's sacrifice and mediation, and their divine union with him through his Spirit: by their peculiarly affectionate attachment to him, and delight in him, as their only Saviour; by their trust and hope in his promises, and obedience to his will; by their peculiar seriousness and constancy in the worship of God, their peculiar love to one an-

other, and good will to all men. In a word, by their peculiar likeness to God, their relish for the pleasures of religion, their regard to their duty in this world, and their infinitely superior interests in another.

Lord, grant us thy grace, that we may be numbered with this peculiar people: give us more and more of that wisdom which is from above, which is pure and peaceable, full of mercy and good fruits; more of that true and vital faith, by which we may cleave to thee and thy word, be led to abhor all sin, and practise all righteousness and goodness, as a people zealous of good works. Of this kind of singularity, however neglected or derided by the world, may it be our privilege to partake largely.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

O happy soul that lives on high,
While men lie grov'ling here!
His hopes are fixt above the sky,
And faith forbids his fear.

His conscience knows no secret stings,
While peace and joy combine
To form a life, whose holy springs
Are hidden and divine.

He waits in secret on his God;
His God in secret sees:
Let earth be all in arms abroad,
He dwells in heavenly peace.

He wants no pomp nor royal throne,
To make him happy here;
Content and pleas'd to live unknown,
Till Christ his life appear.

He looks to heaven's eternal hill,
To meet that glorious day:
But patient waits his Saviour's will,
His soul to call away.

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

Most merciful God and Father, art thou in thy infinite condescension and mercy saying to thy offending creatures, "Seek ye my face?" And shall not our hearts reply, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek," and that with our whole hearts. Blessed are they whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee. It is good for us to draw near to thee; for thou art good to the souls that seek thee. Thou art rich in mercy to all that call upon thee, to all that call upon thee in truth. We come to

plead those gracious promises on which thou hast caused us to hope. Put thy laws in our minds, and write them in our hearts, and our sins and iniquities remember no more. Thou hast graciously promised, that if we walk in the light as thou art in the light, we shall have fellowship with thee the Father, and with thy Son Jesus Christ. O sanctify these sinful hearts, and dwell in them by the influences of thy Holy Spirit. Give us that lively hope, which may make us purify ourselves even as thou art pure, and that ardent love to thee that will make us cheerfully do thy will.

O thou great rewarder of them that diligently seek thee, help us seriously to engage in thy service, to run the way of thy commandments without weariness, and to walk therein without fainting. May we exercise ourselves unto godliness, continuing watchful in prayer, keeping our hearts with all diligence, and running the race set before us with all cheerfulness; ever labouring to be accepted here to thy favour, and hereafter to thy glory; being full of ardour in thy work, and full of good fruit to thy honour. To this end, we beseech thee, O Lord, to strengthen us with all might by thy Spirit in the inner-man. *Blessed be* thy name, O God, if thou *hast inspired* our hearts with these holy

desires and resolutions. It is an earnest we hope of thy never-failing love towards us. Heavenly Father, it is our joy and glory that we know thee; that we live under the care of thy wise, merciful, and almighty providence at present; and have the promise of remission of sins, and of a crown of life in thy presence, where there is fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore. This is all our salvation, and all our desire. We rejoice, heavenly Father, in thy love. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord with us, ye heavenly hosts, who rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, ye ministers of his that do his pleasure! And O that this joy may increase continually; and while we grow in grace and holiness, may the joy of the Lord be our strength; and may we go from strength to strength, till at last we shall meet around thy throne, and enter into the joy of our Lord.

With these devout impressions we would enter upon the duties of this day. Let the doing of our duty be our pleasure, and to serve thee be our great reward. Let a contented mind be instead of all we want; and a thankful heart sweeten every enjoyment. May a humble submission to thy will preserve in us a settled tranquillity of mind; and ma

r thoughts be much there while we live,
ıere we desire to be when we come to die.
hat heaven being our aim, our hope, and
e longing expectation of our souls, we may
nquer all difficulties in our way to it; and
ı through honour and dishonour, good re-
ırt and evil report, prosperity and adver-
:y, with cheerfulness and evenness of mind.
nd at last bring us, we pray thee, to eternal
st and peace with our glorified Redeemer,
ıo is able to do for us abundantly above all
at we can ask, conceive, or think;—to wash
: from our sins in his blood, to sanctify us by
s Spirit, and to make us unto our God kings
ıd priests. To him be glory for ever and
'er. Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

Lord, I am thine, but thou wilt prove
My faith, my patience, and my love;
When scornful men against me join,
They are the sword, the hand is thine.

Their hope and portion lie below:
'Tis all the happiness they know;
'Tis all they seek: they take their shares,
Then die, and leave it to their heirs.

What sinners value, I resign;
Lord, 'tis enough that thou art mine;
I shall behold thy blissful face,
And stand complete in righteousness.

This life's a dream, an empty show;
But the bright world to which I go,
Hath joys substantial and sincere;
When shall I wake, and find me there?

O glorious hour! O blest abode!
I shall be near and like my God;
And flesh and sin no more controul
The sacred pleasures of the soul.

My flesh shall slumber in the ground,
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound;
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise,
And in my Saviour's image rise.

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

Almighty and most merciful Father, by whom we were made, and in whom we live, move, and have our being; to thy tender compassion we owe our safety the day past, with all the hopes of thy approaching sabbath. Unto thee would we give thanks, O God, our exceeding joy: every day would

ss thee, and praise thy name for ever
ver.

would thank thee with all our souls, if
l any returns of love to thee; if we have
the least progress in the path of life
g the week which is now drawing to a
Behold, O Lord, we present ourselves
before thee, to be inspired with such a
ful sense of thy love, as may move us
powerfully towards thee; and awaken
greater earnestness, zeal, and diligence
way of thy commandments.

hat Jesus, the hope of glory, may be
d in us, in all humility and meekness,
ice and righteousness; and an absolute
ider of our souls and bodies to thy holy
nd pleasure. May we no longer live,
hrist live in us; and may the life we live
flesh, be by the faith of the Son of God,
oved us and gave himself for us—the
nbrance of that love is most dear and
us.

in would we offer up ourselves sincerely
e, to do thy will, O God, as our blessed
and Master did. We would repose an
confidence in thee, who hast not spared
vn Son, but given him up for us all. We
humbly and reverently accept what-
thou sendest us; and in everything

give thanks, which is thy will concerning us in Christ Jesus. We trust thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us: but conduct us safely through all the changes of our condition here in an unchanging love to thee, and in holy composure and tranquillity of mind in thy love to us, till we come to live with thee and enjoy thee for ever.

To thy watchful providence we commit ourselves this night; to be secured and protected by thee, when we cannot protect ourselves. May it please thee to give this family comfortable rest and repose; to defend our habitation, and all about us from accident and alarm; and to raise us in health and cheerfulness to praise thee.

Fit us for the enjoyment and improvement of thy holy day; then we will sing of thy power; yea, we will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning; because thou hast been our defence and our refuge at all times. Unto thee, O our strength, will we sing; for it is a good thing to sing praises to thy name, O thou most High; to show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Thus would we both lay ourselves down in peace and sleep; for thou, Lord, only, makest us to dwell in safety. And whether we wake in this world or another, may we still be praising

, for thy mercy endureth for ever. We
bly beseech thee to accept these our
erfect petitions and unworthy praises,
ugh Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."—John xv. 1.

Never was any vineyard so honoured; never was any husbandman so wise, so watchful over his vineyard, as God is over his church. The true vine is the Lord Jesus Christ. Of this vine believers are the branches. The root, though unseen, bears the tree, diffuseth the sap, and is all in all to its flourishing and fruitfulness. So our life is hid with Christ in God. The branches, though many and extended, all meet in the root, and all form but one vine. Of all Christ's disciples it is the great concern to keep up a constant dependence upon him, and communion with him; to adhere habitually to him, and actually derive from him all their spiritual life. Their aim is so to abide in him by faith, that he, according to his promise, may by his Spirit abide in them.

Union with Christ is a divine principle. A life of faith in the Son of God is the most excellent life a man can live in this world. It is pure and heavenly; it is most useful and comfortable: it is not only the means of cultivating and increasing whatever good there is in us already, but it is the root and source from which must spring all that shall be in us in future. We have as necessary and constant dependence upon the grace of the Mediator for all our spiritual and divine life, as we have upon the providence of the Creator for all the actions of the natural life: for as to both, it is in the Divine Power that we live, and move, and have our being. Without Christ we can do nothing aright; nothing that will be either pleasing to God or profitable to ourselves. We depend upon Christ, not only as the vine depends upon the wall for support; but also as the branches upon the root for sap.

Our union with Christ is maintained by the word of God and by prayer. Where the word of Christ dwells richly, there Christ dwells. Those who come to him must abide in him by faith. We must abide in Christ's merit, as our righteousness and plea; and it must abide in us, as our support and comfort. Christ's word must abide in us as a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. If this

word is our constant guide and monitor, if it dwells within us, then we abide in Christ, and he in us.

Those who abide in Christ, regarding him as their chief delight, shall have fulfilled unto them the desire of their hearts. The promises abiding in us lie ready to be turned into prayers; and prayers so excited and regulated cannot but speed. If we abide in Christ, and his word abides in us, we shall have an interest in God's favour through his mediation; we shall have an answer of peace to all our prayers. Christ says that those who abide in him shall bring forth fruit. From Christians, therefore, we look for Christianity: that is, the fruit of a Christian temper and disposition, a Christian life and conversation, Christian devotion, and Christian designs and practice. We must honour God and do good; and exemplify the purity and power of the religion we profess in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

He pruneth them that they may bring forth more fruit. The pruning of fruitful branches, in order to their greater fruitfulness, is the *care and* work of the great husbandman. *Even the best* have in them much that wants *pruning*. That faith which is received into

› heart purifies the soul. There is, through › Spirit, a cleansing virtue in his holy word. quickens grace, and works out corruption; cleanseth as fire cleanseth the gold from dross: and we then evidence that we are ›ansed by the word, when we bring forth ›it unto holiness. So shall ye be my disci- ›s. So shall we both *evidence* our disciple- ›p and *adorn* it; and be to our Master for a me, and a praise, and a glory. That is to disciples indeed. So shall we be owned by r Master in the great day, and have the re- ›rd of disciples, and share in the joy of our ›rd.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Come worship at Emanuel's feet,
See in his face what wonders meet;
Earth is too narrow to express
His worth, his glory, or his grace.

Is he a rose? not Sharon yields
Such fragrancy in all her fields:
Or if the lily he assume,
The valleys bless the rich perfume.

Is he a vine? his heavenly root
Supplies the boughs with life and fruit:
O let a lasting union join
My soul to Christ the living vine.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

O God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, thou art worthy to receive from us, and from the whole creation, blessing, and honour, and glory, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Assist us, we humbly beseech thee, on this morning of thine own day, to unite with thy whole family in heaven and earth in praising thy glorious name. It is a good thing to praise thy name, O Lord, and to declare thy loving-kindness: may we this day go into thy gates with thanksgiving and enter thy courts with praise.

O that thy day may ever be the delight of our souls. Suffer us not to do our own works, or speak our own words, or think our own thoughts. Fix our hearts upon thee and things above; and enable us to approve our souls in thy sight, who beholdest our actions, and searchest our hearts; and who wilt shortly call us to judgment.

Help us to remember that every Sabbath *brings us* nearer either to heaven or hell. *Under this* solemn consideration, may we

work out our salvation with fear and trembling. O let it not be our condemnation, that, while we have sabbath after sabbath attended thine ordinances, we have only increased the deadness of our souls, and the hardness of our hearts; and have caused thy word to be to us a savour of death unto death.

We pray for Christ's sake that this may be a blessed and comfortable day to us; a day of repentance and pardon; a day of conviction and conversion; a day of edification and consolation.

May thy servants who shall this day preach thy Gospel be endued with heavenly wisdom, faithfully and zealously to apply it to the consciences and circumstances of all who shall hear them. And do thou this day, O Lord, glorify thy free grace and sovereign power, in making the Gospel effectual for opening the hearts of sinners, bringing them to cast down the weapons of rebellion, and touch the golden sceptre of mercy, that they may live.

Let *our* hearts, we beseech thee, be opened to attend to the things which shall be spoken by thy ministers. O let them not be as the highway or stony ground, where the good *seed of thy word* cannot prosper; or like the *thorny ground*, where the cares and plea-

sures of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches do choke it. But may we receive thy word into honest and good hearts, and bring forth fruit unto perfection. Dispose us to hear with humility and reverence, without prejudice, and with minds ready to obey. While engaged in prayer and praise, in reading and hearing thy word, may thy Holy Spirit rest upon us, and enable us to do all as for the life of our souls.

In all the services of this day keep us, we pray thee, from drowsiness, wandering, and distraction. Banish from our minds all vain and worldly imaginations. Deliver us from hypocrisy in all our approaches to thee. Let us not draw nigh to thee with our lips, whilst our hearts are far from thee. But give us grace so to ask that we may receive, so to seek that we may find, so to knock that the door of mercy may be opened to us. O may we spend every Sabbath, and hear every sermon as if it were our last; since we know not how soon our last may come.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon a world that lieth in wickedness. For thy Name's sake, let thy everlasting Gospel go forth not in *word only*, but in power and in the Holy *Ghost*. May the breath of his heavenly *influences* be vouchsafed this day, that many

dry bones may be enlivened, many dead souls quickened. May the faith of thy people be strengthened, their desires quickened, their love inflamed, and their holiness perfected in the fear of the Lord. And hasten that blessed time when thy kingdom shall come, and thy will be done on earth even as it is done in heaven. We humbly beg every blessing for ourselves and others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with the Father, and the eternal Spirit, be everlasting glory and praise. Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Lord of the vineyard we adore
  That pow'r and grace divine,
Which grafts our wild, our barren souls,
  In Christ the living vine.

For ever may they there abide,
  And from that vital root
Be influence spread through ev'ry branch,
  To form and feed the fruit.

Shine forth, my God, the clusters warm
  With rays of sacred love;
Till Eden's soil, and Zion's stream,
  The generous plant improve.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

O Lord, our God, when we consider what thou art, and what thou hast been to us; what a tender, gracious, and compassionate Father; how long thou hast borne with our ingratitude and rebellion; how tenderly thou hast invited, yea intreated us to come to thee; and that thou art still beseeching us by all thy mercies; standing at the door of our hearts and knocking; we are lost in admiration of thy long-suffering patience and condescending goodness!

Suffer us not, O Lord, to withhold ourselves from thee. But cause us to surrender our souls and bodies into thy hands; may we join ourselves to thee in a perpetual covenant never to be forgotten. O may we have such a powerful sense of thy love, that it may govern all our passions and affections; and that nothing in the world may induce us to displease thee. Who, O Lord, is there in heaven but thee, or on earth that we can desire besides thee, who art the King of kings, and Lord of lords, infinitely glorious and blessed; and designest to raise us sinful dust and ashes to a kingdom of glory, honour, and immortality in the heavens. O pre-

serve in our minds how dearly we are bought, even by the precious blood of thy only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We would acknowledge most heartily the righteousness and goodness of all thy laws. We implore, as the greatest of blessings, thy renewing grace to create us in thine own lovely image of righteousness and true holiness: and would resolve, O our God, in thy strength, that holiness and eternal life shall be the great object of our most ardent hope, and our most vigorous pursuit.

We would expect no pardon but in the ways of sobriety, righteousness, and godliness. We hope for a blessed immortality only by patient continuance in well-doing. We would consent to every part of thy holy Gospel; and bear our testimony, that none of thy commandments are grievous, that thy yoke is easy and thy burden light.

O may we never contradict in our practice these serious professions; but continue with unwearied diligence in thy commands, growing stronger and stronger in the grace of the Lord Jesus. May every address to thy Divine Majesty, and every Sabbath with which thou favourest us, leave upon our hearts a more enlarged and influential sense of thine infinite excellence and loving kind-

ness, and of our obligations to love and serve thee. Whenever we leave thy presence may it be with our minds more heavenwards; with lower thoughts of all the enjoyments of this life; with a greater love of piety and holiness; and with more fervent desire to become in everything such as thou canst approve, and love, and delight in for ever.

Forgive, O Lord, the sins of our holy things this day; the wanderings of our thoughts, and the evil of our hearts. Imprint upon our memories the precepts of thy word, and the promises of thy love. And grant, we beseech thee, that whatever good thoughts may have been impressed upon our minds, may grow into fixed principles: and that all holy and heavenly affections may become a new nature, and the constant temper of our spirits. May all our resolutions advance into a serious practice and exercise of godliness; and all the actions of a holy life grow more free, cheerful, vigorous, and full of delight, till they are completed in everlasting bliss. There may we shine among those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb; to whom, with the *Father and* the Holy Ghost, be all honour *and glory,* now and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd "giveth his life for the sheep."—John x. 11.

Is not this a character full of gentleness and goodness? "Is it not instead of ten thousand arguments to prove, that if he pitied us in this low estate, in which he at first found us, his mercy towards us will endure for ever?" View our blessed Redeemer in the abasement of his abode among men: view him in the agonies in which he finished the long scene of his sufferings; and then say, what but love brought him from heaven, and kept him on earth? What but love stretched him on the cross, and laid him in the grave? And can any expression of tenderness be too great to be expected after such amazing effects of it have already been exhibited? Surely, as he himself says, greater love has no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. But, as the Apostle justly observes, his love is com*mended towards us*; it is set off by this im*portant circumstance*; in that while we were

yet sinners, Christ died for us. And how cheerfully may we depend upon it, that, if when we were enemies we were reconciled by his death, we shall by his life obtain complete salvation: and that his living care will accomplish what his dying love has begun.

He will feed his flock, he will gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and be very tender of the lives of those for whom he laid down his own.

Let us observe how the blessed Jesus lifts up the hands which were hanging down, and strengthens the feeble knees. He saw that the church of Ephesus had left its first love, that the church of Sardis had a name to live, but was dead; yet that there was a little handful amongst them who had not defiled their garments: that the church of Philadelphia had but a little strength; and that of Laodicea was neither cold nor hot. Yet a gracious Redeemer does not immediately disown them! but on the one hand kindly admonishes them of their danger, lest growing apostacy and degeneracy should provoke him to remove their candlestick out of its place; to cast them out as loathsome; or to wound them with the sword of his mouth, that is, his word. And on the other hand, he encourages them to greater fidelity

and zeal by a promise of eating of the fruit of the tree of life, of being clothed in white raiment, of being confessed before the Father and his holy angels, and of sitting down with him on his victorious throne. And as for his faithful Smyrnians, he not only applauds their former conduct, but animates them against the terrors of imprisonment and other tribulations, by assuring them he would give them a crown of life. And to the Philadelphians, who, though they were weak, had kept his word, he gives the gracious assurance, that he also would keep them from the approaching hour of temptation, until at length he made them pillars in the house of God above, and gave them a new name in his holy city.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

The Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care;
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye;
My noon-day walks he shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.

When in the sultry glebe I faint,
Or in the thirsty mountain pant,

To fertile vales and dewy meads
My weary, wandering steps he leads;
Where peaceful rivers soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow.

Though in a bare and rugged way,
Through devious, lonely wilds I stray,
Thy bounty shall my wants beguile;
The barren wilderness shall smile
With sudden greens and herbage crown'd,
And streams shall murmur all around.

Though in the paths of death I tread,
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For thou, O Lord, art with me still;
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

O thou Shepherd of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, graciously regard us who are now assembled together to thank thee for thy care over us through the darkness and dangers of the night; and to entreat thy protection, guidance, and blessing through the day on which we are entering. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are

altogether unworthy of thy protection; and confess with shame and contrition, that we have gone astray from thee like lost sheep, and have turned every one to his own way. Most justly mightest thou leave us to eat of the fruit thereof, and to be filled with our own devices.

But we flee unto thee, thou good Shepherd, who hast given thy life for the sheep. Surely thou has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Thou wast wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; and the Lord hath laid upon thee the iniquity of us all. For thine own name's sake, therefore, we beseech thee to have mercy upon us; and though we have been as sheep going astray, incline us to return unto thee, the Shepherd and the Bishop of our souls.

We look up unto thee for guidance, preservation, and strength. Lead us in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake. Keep us in the way in which we should go, and guide us with thine eye. Give unto us eternal life, and let us never perish; neither let any one pluck us out of thy hand.

Be thou, Lord, our Shepherd, and we shall not want. Let thy loving-kindness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. And when we pass through the valley of the

shadow of death, be thou still with us. Let thy rod and thy staff comfort and support us: and, at the last, graciously receive us into thy heavenly fold; there with thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture to give thee thanks for ever.

O thou who feedest thy flock like a shepherd, guide and protect thy helpless sheep scattered abroad through the wilderness of this world. Mercifully guard them from those who lie in wait to deceive; and particularly from the great enemy of souls, who goeth about seeking whom he may devour; and let nothing separate them from thy everlasting love.

Gather the lambs in thy arms, and carry them in thy bosom, and say unto them, "Fear not, little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." And grant that, as one fold under one shepherd, they may learn of thee, who art meek and lowly in heart, to dwell together in peace and love. These prayers for ourselves and others we humbly offer up to the throne of grace in the name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

HYMN.

For Monday Evening.

I love my Shepherd's voice;
His watchful eyes shall keep
My wandering soul among
The thousands of his sheep
  He feeds his flock,
  He calls their names;
  His bosom bears
  The tender lambs.

Be thou my counsellor,
My pattern and my guide;
And through this desert land
Still keep me near thy side:
  O let my feet
  Ne'er run astray,
  Nor rove, nor seek
  The crooked way.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

FOR INCREASE OF GRACE.

God of all grace, who gavest thy beloved
that we might have life, and that we
it have it more abundantly, we beseech
to grant that of his fulness we may

receive grace sufficient for us, to make us strong in the Lord, and ready to every good work. Thy people, thou hast said, shall go from strength to strength, growing in grace, till they appear before thee in glory; and the path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

But, O Lord, how barren and unfruitful have we been among the trees of righteousness! how weak are we still in our spiritual estate! how small is our will and strength to that which is good! How much are we behind many of thy servants in the Christian race! O our God, we have not well improved the talents with which thou hast entrusted us, nor answered the care and kindness of heaven, which we have so long experienced. We are ashamed that so many mercies have been lost upon us.

Forgive us, O Lord, and repair thy holy image in us. O help us more and more to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Whatever else we want, Lord deny us not thy grace, but increase it in us more and more; yea, let the graces of thy Spirit that accompany salvation so flourish in our souls, that the

peace of God which passeth all understanding may keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

Blessed Jesus, our life, our strength, and our Redeemer, strengthen in us we beseech thee the things that remain and are ready to die; and cherish all the seeds of grace sown in our hearts. May our souls prosper and increase with the increase of God; growing in knowledge and grace, and abounding in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to thy praise and glory. Carry on, O Lord, with power the work of faith and sanctification in our souls; that our sinful corruptions may daily grow weaker and weaker, and thy grace stronger and stronger. Let it take more entire possession of our souls, subduing every corrupt affection, every proud thought, and bringing all into the obedience of faith.

May grace so prevail in our hearts as to make the exercises of it easy and delightful, regular and constant. May the sins that most easily beset us be more and more subdued. Let pride be mortified, however painful we may feel it; till we think of ourselves no more highly than we ought to think; till we can bear injuries, and slight, and contempt with meekness, as followers of

the meek and humble Jesus; and may we be clothed with humility.

Thus may every sin be more subdued, and every grace growing and abounding within us; and, forgetting the things that are behind, may we press forward till we come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, and grace reign in all our hearts, uniting us in love, and preparing us for the family of heaven where it shall be ripened into glory. We ask every blessing in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Tuesday Morning.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to "me; and him that cometh to me I will in nowise "cast out."—John vi. 37.

How welcome should these words be to our souls! When we consider our unworthiness, what reason have we to fear that he should cast us out! Most justly might he *frown upon* us and reject us; but his promise *is, "I will* in nowise cast out." When it is *said he will* not cast out him that cometh, the

meaning is, that he will receive him, and entertain him, and give him all that he needs.

They shall be taught of God. Their understandings shall be enlightened. None will come to Christ but such as have learned of the Father. We shall never be brought to Christ but under the Divine guidance; unless God by his grace enlighten our minds, inform our judgment, and rectify our mistakes; and not only tell us that we may *hear*, but teach us that we may *learn* the truth as it is in Jesus.

The nature of this work is *drawing*—not a force compelling against the will, but a change wrought in it; a new bias given to the soul, by which it is inclined towards God. He that formed the soul of man within him knows how to new mould it; to alter its bent and temper, and to make it conformable to himself. He can take away our natural enmity to him, and give us a spirit of adoption, and cause us to cry unto him, Abba Father.

He can enable us to say, He is my Father: I know, therefore, he will pity me as a father pitieth his children: he will pardon and spare me as a father spareth his son that serves him. He is my Father; then whither *should I go but* to him for protection in all *my dangers,* for direction in all my difficul-

ties, for satisfaction in all my doubts, for supply in all my wants? Mercy and tenderness are attributes which he delights in; mercy pleaseth him. It was that great attribute that he proclaimed his name by, causing his sun to shine on the evil and the good: and surely he that hath mercy and goodness for a stranger, cannot deny it to a child. But if we have a spirit of adoption, and are the sons and daughters; then also are we heirs of God, through Christ. And here is that lively hope given to us in our Saviour's parting words, "I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also." This is a hope that maketh not ashamed; a hope of that glory which my Saviour came down from heaven to purchase by his blood; a hope of a joyful resurrection after death; a hope of that glorious appearance of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; a hope of that blissful sentence, in the presence of men and angels, "Come ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you;" and a hope of an everlasting state of happiness and glory, in the presence of angels, and of saints made perfect.

Let us fix our faith, and encourage our

hope upon those animating words of our Lord, "Be not afraid, I have overcome the world." "Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Let us, with the Apostle, in lively faith and hope anticipate that triumphant song, "Thanks be unto God, who giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Is there a sight in earth or heav'n
  Can such delight impart,
As Jesu's wide extended arm,
  And softly melting heart?

"All that my heavenly Father gives
  Shall come," the Saviour cries:
"And ev'ry trembling soul that comes,
  Finds favour in mine eyes."

Hearken, ye dying sinners all;
  And hasten while ye hear;
For crowds of wretched souls at once
  May find their refuge there.

I hear thy voice, and I obey;
  For at thy feet I fall;
Nor shall the tempter's voice prevail
  Against the Saviour's call.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

O most merciful Lord God, thou hast proclaimed thyself to be the Lord: the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. What grace and mercy hast thou bestowed upon us sinful creatures in permitting us to approach thee, who art glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises, doing wonders.

It is in thee we live, and move, and have our being; and we would say, bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. But, above all, we bless thee for the richer mercies of thy redeeming grace and forgiving love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessed be thy name, who hast pitied a sinful world, and sent thy dear Son to die, that we might live; and hast raised him again for our justification. O cause us to feel more of thy forgiving mercy; make us more sensible how much we need it. Iniquity, transgression, and sin have abounded within us. O grant us such a sight of sin

as may melt our hard hearts: and may we see thy forbearance in the blessings thou continuest to bestow upon us.

O Lord, who pardonest iniquity, transgression, and sin, in every degree, and under every aggravation, mercifully forgive our iniquities; and draw us by the cords of mercy nearer to thyself. Above all, may that love which gave thy only begotten Son to die for sinners, and which angels desire to look into, pass before us in all its fulness and glory.

O let thy good Spirit take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us; that our consciences may be awakened, our understanding enlightened, our will bowed to the obedience of faith, our affections fixed on heavenly things, and our hearts enriched with divine graces and comforts. And whilst we are mourning over the evils of our hearts and lives, O lead us to that fountain of atoning blood, by which we may be cleansed and pardoned. Bring us to the foot of the Redeemer's cross; and enable us to say with believing hearts, My Lord and my God!

Thy goodness has followed us all our *days; may this day* be among the many that *thou hast blessed.* Bless us, heavenly Fa-

ther, in our going out and coming in, an in all our lawful undertakings. Above al may our souls be in health and prospe and may thy goodness be our daily song Every day will we bless thee, and prais thy name for ever and ever. And may w again tell of thy loving-kindness in th evening. Thus may we sing of thy redeem ing love on earth, till we join the genera assembly of the church of the first-born i heaven, through the atonement and merits c our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and Amer

HYMN

For Tuesday Evening.

Emptied of earth, I fain would be;
Of sin, of self, of all but thee:
Reserv'd for Christ, who bled and died;
Surrender'd to be crucified.

Sequester'd from the noise and strife,
The lust, the pomp, the pride of life:
Prepar'd for heaven, my noblest care;
To have my conversation there.

Nothing save Jesus would I know;
My friend and my companion, thou:
Lord, take my heart, assert thy right,
And put all rival joys to flight.

Each idol tread beneath thy feet,
And to thyself the conquest get:
Let sin no more oppose my Lord,
Slain by the Spirit's two edg'd sword.

Detached from sublunary joys,
Lord, let me only hear thy voice;
Thy beauty see, thy grace admire;
Nor glow but with celestial fire.

Larger communion let me prove
With thee, blest object of my love:
But, Oh! for this no power have I;
My strength is at thy feet to lie.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

Infinitely great and gracious God, thy ory exceeds our utmost thoughts; and thy ercies are over all thy works. We thy iful creatures have especial reason to mire and adore not only thy patience iich bears with us, notwithstanding all at we have done against thee; but likese thy never-ceasing bounty, by which r comforts are continued and our wants pplied.

Ve desire to approach thee as our kind and *rciful Father* in Jesus Christ; humbly

beseeching thee, that our sins may be washed away through faith in his most precious blood; and that thou wouldest by thy Holy Spirit enable us to resist and overcome them.

Thou didst create man, O Lord, after thine own blessed image; but we have destroyed ourselves, and come short of thy glory. The crown is fallen from our heads; and woe unto us, for we are sinners both by nature and practice. Justly mightest thou swear in thy wrath, that we should not enter into thy rest.

Yet suffer us to plead in faith thy gracious promise, that whoever trusteth in the Saviour thou hast provided, and cometh unto thee by him, shall not come in vain, nor fall into condemnation, but have everlasting life for his sake. Lord, we would believe: O help our unbelief! Work in us an unfeigned repentance towards God, and a right faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that we may be of the number of them that repent and believe to the saving of the soul.

Save us, O Lord, from our sinful selves; from the love of the present evil world; and from every thing that opposes thy grace, and wars against our souls. Establish us in thy love; strengthen us to perform thy will; and settle our faith on Christ, the rock

of ages. To thy mercy in him we would humbly commit ourselves this night. Be thou our shield to defend us against every danger; and grant us, if it please thee, rest of body and peace of mind. Let the voice of joy and health be heard in our dwelling.

Comfort all who want the comforts we enjoy; and grant suitable supplies of mercy, both spiritual and temporal, to all the afflicted, wheresoever they are, and howsoever tried.

Remember, with the favour that thou bearest to thy people, our absent friends and relations. Be thou a friend to them, and may they stand in a covenant relation to thee. Make them and us such as thou wouldest have us to be, and such as thou wilt accept in Christ Jesus, here to thy gracious favour, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom.

Hear us, O Lord, in behalf of ourselves and others. Above all, hear the Son of thy love, the lover of our souls, who intercedes, we trust, for us at thy right hand. To him, with thyself, and the blessed Spirit, enable us to ascribe everlasting praise and glory. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

THE INWARD WITNESS.

"He that believeth on the Son of God, hath "the witness in himself: he that believeth not "God, hath made him a liar; because he believeth "not the record that God gave of his Son."—1 John v. 10.

Here we see the privilege and stability of the real Christian, "He that believeth on the Son of God, hath the witness in himself." He hath not only the outward evidence that others have, but he hath in his own heart also a testimony for Jesus Christ. He can allege what Christ, and the truth of Christ have done for his soul; and what he has seen and found in him. He has seen his sin, guilt, and misery, and his utter need of such a Saviour. He has seen the excellency, beauty, and office of the Son of God; and the incomparable suitableness of such a Saviour to all his spiritual wants. He sees and admires the wisdom and love of God, in preparing and sending such a Saviour to deliver him from sin and hell; and to raise him to pardon, peace, and communion with God. He feels the power of the word and

doctrine of Christ wounding, healing, quickening, and comforting his soul. He finds that the revelation of Christ, as it is the greatest discovery of the love of God to man, so it is the most powerful means of kindling and enflaming his love to God. He is born of God by the truth of Christ; and has a new heart and nature, a new love, disposition, and delight; and is not the same man he formerly was. Moreover he finds just such a conflict with himself, with sin, with the flesh, the world, and invisible wicked powers, as is described and provided for in the doctrine of Christ. He finds such prospects and such strength afforded him by the faith of Christ, that he can despise and overcome the world, and travel on towards a better. He learns what interest the Mediator hath in heaven by the answers he receives to those prayers that are sent thither in his name, according to his will, and through his intercession. He is begotten again unto a lively hope; to a holy confidence in God, in his good will and love; to a joyful victory over the terrors of conscience, the dread of death and hell; to a comfortable prospect of life and immortality; being enriched with the earnest of the Spirit, and sealed to the day of redemption. Such as-

surance has the believer in the gospel: h has a witness in himself. Christ is forme in him; and he is growing up to the fulne and perfection, or perfect image of Chri in heaven.

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

Witness ye saints that Christ is true;
  Tell how his name imparts
The life of grace and glory too;
  Ye have it in your hearts.

The heavenly building is begun,
  When ye receive the Lord;
His hands shall lay the crowning stone,
  And will perform his word.

Your souls are form'd by Wisdom's rules
  Your joys and graces shine;
You need no learning of the schools
  To prove your faith divine.

Let a vain world with scoffs oppose;
  Let Satan's bolts be hurl'd;
There's something wrought within you shov
  That Jesus saves the world.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

Unto thee, O God, do we give than

yea unto thee will we give thanks; because thy name is nigh, and thy wondrous works declare thee. We beseech thee graciously to hear us at this time, and to supply our numerous wants. O write a law of thankfulness upon our hearts, for the experience we have already had of thy goodness; and kindly continue to be nigh unto us in all that we call upon thee for.

Wash away the sins of our past lives. Who can tell how oft he offendeth? none but thou who knowest all things. O cleanse us from our secret faults, and from our original depravity, the source of all. May we be justified fully and freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, and sanctified by the renewing efficacy of thy blessed Spirit.

We humbly pray thee to bless us in this our waiting upon thee; we are gathered together in thy name at the footstool of thy throne of grace. O Lord Jesus, be thou in the midst of us, and give unto us a well-grounded hope of our interest in thy precious blood. We depend on thy righteousness, blood-shedding, and intercession; as the altar which sanctifies every sacrifice of *prayer and praise* which we offer up. Since *it is only through* thee that our persons and

our services can be rendered acceptable to the Father; O mingle our addresses with the incense of thy intercession, that they may rise up as a memorial before God.

O thou risen and ascended Saviour, may our hearts and affections tend upwards to thy throne in heaven; that by faith in thy adorable person and infinite merits, and by the exercise of continual obedience and deadness to the world, we may safely hope to be with thee where thou art, and behold thy glory.

O heavenly Father, we acknowledge that all the blessings, spiritual and temporal, which we have received from our earliest existence to this day, have proceeded from thy free and unmerited goodness. If the continuance of thy favours were to be regulated by our deserts, how soon would they be withdrawn! Therefore, not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the praise.

Hear us, O God of our salvation; and do more for us than we are able to ask or think, for the sake of thy beloved Son, our adorable Redeemer: to whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost be ascribed all glory, and adoration by the church above, and the church below for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
With all thy quick'ning powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

Look how we grovel here below,
Fond of these trifling toys;
Our souls how heavily they go
To reach eternal joys.

In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannahs languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.

Dear Lord! and shall we ever live
At this poor dying rate;
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,
And thine to us so great?

Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
With all thy quick'ning powers;
Come shed abroad a Saviour's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

O thou God of love, whose tender mer-
s are over all thy works: and who in

thy abounding loving-kindness hast said, "Delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall fulfil the desires of thine heart;" we come before thee, confessing with deep humility and contrition, that thy love has been most unworthily neglected by our ungrateful hearts, or we might have dwelt in the enjoyment of thy favour, which is better than life.

O that henceforth we may make the Lord our refuge, and the most High our habitation; and that in the multitude of our thoughts within us thy comforts may delight our souls. May we rejoice in a believing view of thy reconciled face, and be enabled from blessed experience to say, "Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth that we desire in comparison of thee."

O how plainly hast thou declared, in the condescension, sufferings, death, and intercession of thy dear Son, thy wondrous love to the sons of men! What love hast thou shewn in the course of thy providence, in preservations and deliverances! Thou hast conducted us by thy unerring wisdom, and crowned us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Thou hast manifested thy love to us in all thy precious promises, and in the

glorious provision thou hast made for us through Jesus Christ to all eternity.

We lament, O Lord, that thy love has been so much lost upon us. If at any time we have been drawn towards thee by the cords of thy mercy, how soon, alas, have our carnal minds been again entangled by earthly vanities! We lament the darkness, the sluggishness, and the earthliness of our hearts which has kept us from thee our God. Our iniquities as a thick cloud have hid thy face from us. O that we had walked with thee and dwelt with thee in righteousness, peace, and joy! This sinful distance from thee, our God, has been our grievous loss.

Mercifully grant us that nearer admittance to thy presence which alone can constitute our recovery and our joy. O help our souls to lay hold on Jesus, our reconciler; and through him to abide in thy love. Increase our faith, and give us some evidence that eternal life is begun within us; and while we continue here, help us more and more to take up our cross and follow Jesus in sobriety, righteousness, and godliness of life. There is nothing we would more desire than that doing righteousness, *we may be righteous* even as he is righteous.

Assist us, we beseech thee, to attain this

great end of his sufferings and death, the purchase of his cross, and the promise of his love. Preserve in us a constant sense of the great value of our souls for which he died; and especially raise us to a greater height of love and gratitude, and of hope and confidence in thy infinite mercies, of which we have such strong assurance, in that he was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification.

May we live above the tempting allurements of this world, and delight ourselves in thee; walking as seeing him who is invisible, till we arrive at the heavenly city, where the sun of our joy shall go down no more; but the glory of God, and of the Lamb shall be our light for ever and ever. O Lord accept these our prayers for the sake of thy beloved Son, our only Mediator and Advocate.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for their's is "*the king*dom of heaven."—Matt. v. 3.

The foundation of all graces is laid in *humility;* those that would build high must

begin low. It is an excellent preparative for the entrance of gospel grace into the soul: it fits the soil to receive the seed.

The general opinion is, blessed are the rich, the great, the honourable, who spend their days in mirth, and their years in pleasure. Our Lord Jesus Christ in this chapter gives us quite another view of blessedness; and from him it is that the Christian takes his ideas of happiness.

To be poor in spirit is to be humbled, to be low in our own eyes: it is to acknowledge that God is great, and that we are mean; that he is holy, and we are sinful; that he is all, and we are nothing: to be watching daily at God's gates, waiting at the posts of his doors, always in want of his grace; it is to esteem others better than ourselves. It is to renounce our own righteousness and strength, and depend only upon the merit of Christ for our justification, and upon the Spirit of Christ for our sanctification. That broken and contrite spirit with which the Publican cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner," is this poverty of spirit. Such are blessed: blessed in the favour of God; to them he gives more grace; they live the *most comfortable* lives, and are kind and *tender hearted to* themselves and all about

them. Their's is the kingdom of heave High spirits are carried away by the glo of the kingdoms of this world; but tl humble obtain the glory of the kingdom heaven.

As in our greatest abundance we mu not think to live without God; so in o greatest straits we must learn to live up him: and when the fig-tree doth not bl som, and the fields yield no meat, still rejoice in the Lord, in full persuasion th in some way or other God will provide.

HYMN

For Thursday Morning.

Lord, if thou the grace impart,
Poor in spirit, meek in heart,
I shall as my Master be,
Rooted in humility.

From the time that thee I know,
Nothing great I'd seek below;
Pleas'd with all the Lord provides,
Wean'd from all the world besides.

Simple, teachable, and mild,
Humble as a little child,
Ev'ry evil let me flee,
Father, fix my soul on thee.

Oh that all may seek and find,
Ev'ry good in Jesus join'd!
Him let Israel still adore,
Trust him, praise him evermore,

PRAYER.

For Thursday Morning.

Thou who hast born so long with us,
done so much for us: of whom alone
eth our salvation, and by whom we
pe death; moved by a sense of our
essities, and encouraged by our daily ex-
ence of thy mercies, we desire still to
ter ourselves under the shadow of thy
gs, and to continue our supplications at
throne of thy grace. We most humbly
eat thee, who fashionest the hearts
he children of men, that thou wouldest
pare our hearts to come into thy sacred
sence, and to call upon thy blessed name.
our down upon us a spirit of grace and
upplication; let thy good Spirit help our
rmities, and teach us how to pray.
Ve who are but dust and ashes; we
have but too just cause to fear lest our
at and manifold sins should provoke thee
hide thy face from us, and shut up thy
ng-kindness in displeasure, have taken

upon us to speak unto thee, the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth. O be merciful to us sinners, for the sake of him whom thou hast exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto his people, and forgiveness of sins. Heal our souls, which have greatly sinned against thee; heal our backslidings and love us freely; take away our ungodliness; renew us daily unto repentance; and establish our hearts in thy faith, and fear, and love.

Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our foot-steps slip not. Make us in the strength of thy grace to go on conquering and to conquer all the enemies of our souls, and all the hindrances of our salvation, until thou hast bruised Satan under our feet.

We bless thee for the mercies of the past night. We laid us down to sleep, and have risen again; for thou hast sustained us, and made us to dwell in safety. May we ever experience the comfort of thy protection, and the help of thy divine grace. May we find thee indeed to be a God of pardon, and a God of sanctification.

Dispose of us, we beseech thee, this day, *and of all* that concerns us, to the glory of *thy name*. Keep us at all times, and in all

s and companies from the evil of sin, rom all other evils to which the great- of our sins, and the weakness of our re expose us. And take thou, O hea- y Father, the charge, guidance, and rnment of us. Lead us by thy counsel ugh this world until thou hast brought thy kingdom and glory. In the mean sanctify to us all thy dealings with us; seal us thine to the great day of final mption, for the sake of thy tender mer- and the abundant merits of Jesus st, our most blessed Mediator and eemer. Amen.

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

Ye humble souls rejoice,
And cheerful triumphs sing;
Wake all your harmony of voice,
For Jesus is your King.

That meek and lowly Lord,
Whom here your souls have known,
Pledges the honour of his word
T' avow you for his own.

He brings salvation near,
For which his blood was paid;
How beauteous shall your souls appear,
Thus sumptuously array'd!

Salvation, Lord, is thine;
And all thy saints confess
The royal robes in which they shine
Were wrought by sov'reign grace.

PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

O Lord, the infinite, incomprehensible Jehovah; thou hast heaven for thy throne, and earth for thy foot-stool; and all things are in thy sight and at thy disposal. Thou art the great searcher of our hearts, and the observer of our lives, here and everywhere present. Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. Lord, prepare our hearts to attend upon thy glorious, all-seeing Majesty.

Work in us by the power of thy grace that change which we cannot work in ourselves; for of ourselves we are vile and helpless. Justly mightest thou withdraw thy tender mercies from us, and pour out thy wrath and indignation upon us to the uttermost; making us to feel by dreadful experience, that it is an evil and bitter thing to depart from thee, the living God. But thy

patience is wonderful, thy goodness is infinite; and as is thy majesty so is thy mercy.

We therefore humbly beseech thee to stretch forth the hand of thy power and grace, which alone is able to deliver us who are tied and bound with the chain of our sins. Call us effectually, and we shall come unto thee; draw us, and we shall run after thee. Cause us to feel, to abhor, and to forsake our iniquities: and give us a well-grounded apprehension of our being justified through the redemption that is in Jesus. For his sake vouchsafe us the sanctifying influences of thy Spirit, to transform us into thine own image, and to strengthen us for all the duties of thy service.

Perfect, O Lord, that which concerneth us: and make us such both in our hearts and lives, that we may enjoy thy peace here, and be made meet for the inheritance of thy heavenly glory above. O satisfy us with thy favour; and enable us to rejoice in a sense of thy gracious acceptance of us, and merciful intentions towards us in the Son of thy love. Speak peace to our consciences. Say to each of our souls, "I am thy salvation," that thus we may rejoice in thee as our *God and* Father in Jesus Christ.

And as thou hast been good and kind to

us through the day past, so may we experience the continuance of thy fatherly care over us this night. Preserve us from all evil. Vouchsafe to favour us with such needful repose as may refresh and strengthen us for our respective duties.

Prepare us especially we earnestly entreat thee, most holy God, for the final sleep of death, and the solemn account we must shortly give at the judgment-seat of Christ. When our souls are required of us, and we are unclothed of the body, grant that we may not be found spiritually destitute; unsprinkled with the atoning blood of thy Son, unclothed with the robe of his justifying righteousness, nor unadorned with the graces of thy sanctifying Spirit. O cause us in this our day, the day of life, the only season of preparation, to know and follow after the things pertaining to our everlasting peace, before they are for ever hidden from our eyes.

Accomplish the work of thy grace upon our hearts, and cause us to finish the work thou hast given us to do. And whenever thou shalt be pleased to call us hence may we depart in peace, according to thy word; may we quit the body with cheerfulness, and in faith commend our spirits into thy gra-

cious hands, trusting in the riches of thy grace, and the saving merits of thy Son.

For all that he has so wonderfully effected to recover us, and to obtain eternal redemption for us; for whatever good thou hast wrought in us; and for the hope of glory thou hast given us, to thy name, O blessed God of our salvation, we would ascribe all praise and glory, now and for evermore. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought "for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall "drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall "put on."—Matt. vi. 25.

"*I say unto you.*" What is it that Jesus saith? "*Take no thought for your life.*" He saith it as our lawgiver, and the sovereign of our hearts: he saith it as our comforter, and the helper of our joy.

The care he forbids is a disquieting, tormenting care, which distracts the mind, and *causes it to hang* in suspense; which disturbs our joy in God, and casts a damp upon

our hope in him; which hinders our en
ment of what God has given us. He
bids distrustful, unbelieving thoughts;
commands us to cast all our care upon h
and let our souls dwell at ease, believ
his gracious assurance, that he careth for
Take no thought about the continuance
life. Refer it to God to lengthen or shor
it as he pleases, saying, "My times are
thy hand."

And with respect to the comforts of
life; refer them also to God, to embitter
sweeten as he pleases. He has maintai
our lives hitherto; he has protected us
kept us alive. He that guards us aga
all evil will supply us with every necess
good. If he had been pleased to let
perish, he would not have given his an
charge concerning us to keep us. Bel
the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neit
do they reap, nor gather into barns;
your heavenly Father feedeth them:
ye not much better than they? Look u
them, and learn to trust in God. Cons
the lilies of the field. God has arra
them in all their beauty, surpassing tha
Solomon in his glory. If he so clothe
short-lived grass, much more will he cl
you whom he hath chosen for immort

Even the children of *Nineveh* were preferred before the gourd; much more the sons of Zion, who are in covenant with their God.

"*O ye of little faith.*" This may be taken as an encouragement to weak faith. True faith, though it be but weak, is an earnest of the divine care. Great faith shall be commended, and bring in great things; but little faith shall not be neglected. Your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of these things. All the excellences of the creature must flow from God, the fountain and spring of them all. And though he is in heaven and we upon earth, he observes what the least of us hath occasion for, and he will provide.

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

Quiet, Lord, my froward heart;
  Make me teachable and mild,
Upright, simple, free from art;
  Make me as a weaned child,
From distrust and envy free,
Pleas'd with all that pleases thee.

What thou shalt to-day provide,
  Let me as a child receive;
What to-morrow may betide,
  Calmly to thy wisdom leave:
'Tis enough that Thou wilt care;
Why should I the burden bear?

As a little child relies
  On a care beyond his own;
Knows he's neither strong nor wise,
  Fears to stir a step alone:
Let me thus with thee abide,
As my Father, Guard, and Guide.

Thus preserv'd from Satan's wiles,
  Safe from dangers, free from fears,
May I live upon thy smiles,
  Till the promis'd hour appears;
When the sons of God shall prove
All their Father's boundless love.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

O most high and gracious God, Fatl of our Lord Jesus Christ, we desire to dr nigh unto thee acknowledging that we *thine,* for thou hast made us and not *ourselves.* O may we in heart and mi *ascend* unto thy dwelling-place, and wit

lowliness worship at the footstool of thy glorious Majesty. May we with confidence and delight approach thee, our heavenly Father, as dear children.

Bless our souls with such holy and lively faith as may enliven our minds, purify our hearts, and influence our lives. May we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Gospel as a propitiation, as a Prince, and a Saviour; and desire more thoroughly to approve ourselves sincere unfeigned penitents, that we may obtain, through him, pardon, justification, and eternal life. Enable us to trust in thine almighty power to help and save; in thy loving-kindness to pity and relieve; and in thy exceeding great and precious promises made unto all that wait upon thee.

May thy grace be manifested this day in our life and conversation. Make us watchful over ourselves, over our thoughts, words, and actions; watchful against all evil, and watching unto prayer. Remind us, O God, that thine eye is ever upon us; and may we walk as those on whom thy name is called.

May we be careful for nothing; but in everything make known our requests unto thee by prayer and supplication with thanks

giving. And when at any time thou shalt see fit in thine infinite wisdom and love, to withhold an immediate answer to our petitions, be graciously pleased, O Father, to give us such a measure of faith, hope, and patience as may bear us up in all the changes of this mortal life.

In whatsoever state we are may we learn therewith to be content. May we know how to be abased, as well as how to be exalted; to want as well as to abound; to have nothing as well as to possess all things. And though the fig-tree should not blossom, and no fruit be found on the vine; though the labour of the olive should fail, and the field yield no increase; though there be no sheep in the fold, or herd in the stall, may we still trust in the Lord, and be joyful in the God of our salvation. May we remember, O Lord, that thou canst cause rivers to flow from the rock, and furnish a table in the wilderness; that by thee even the hairs of our heads are all numbered; and none ever trusted in thee and were confounded.

Thus may we run our race, fight the good fight, keep the faith, and live the life of the *righteous* upon earth, and at length may *our last* end be like his. And whenever *these* earthly tabernacles shall be dissolved,

ay our souls be safely conveyed to the ansions of the blessed in the heavens; to e innumerable company of angels, to the irits of the just made perfect, and to God e judge of all. Now to the Lamb that was ain, and has redeemed us to God by his ood be glory, dominion, and praise, for er and ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Evemng.

While I liv'd without the Lord,
(If I might be said to live,)
Nothing could relief afford,
Nothing satisfaction give.

Empty hopes, and groundless fear
Mov'd by turns my anxious mind;
Like a feather in the air,
Made the sport of ev'ry wind.

Now I see, whate'er betide,
All is well if Christ be mine:
He has promis'd to provide;
I have only to resign.

When a sense of sin and thrall
Forc'd me to the sinner's Friend,
He engag'd to manage all
By the way and to the end.

"Cast," he said, "on me thy care,
'Tis enough that I am nigh:
I will all thy burdens bear,
I will all thy wants supply.

"Simply follow as I lead;
Do not reason, but believe:
Call on me in time of need,
Thou shalt surely help receive."

Lord, I would, I do submit,
Gladly yield my all to thee;
What thy wisdom sees most fit
Must be, surely, best for me.

Only, when the way is rough,
And my timid flesh would start,
Let thy promise and thy love
Cheer and animate my heart.

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

O most holy, great, and glorious (
the Almighty Creator of heaven and ea
who upholdest all things by the word of
power, and art unsearchable in wisdom,
tice, and mercy; the praises of angels
infinitely below thy transcendant

lences. How then shall we sufficiently adore thee!

But thou hast graciously condescended to say, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me." We would therefore desire to bless thine unspeakable love, which has revealed thyself in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, not only as the Lord most mighty, but also as the Lord most merciful and abundant in loving-kindness.

Enable us, O Lord, deeply to abhor ourselves; and to be abased in dust and ashes, that we have so departed from thee and walked after vanity. We have, indeed, destroyed ourselves.

But we would with all our souls glorify thy holy name, that in thee is our help found: for thou hast laid help upon one who is mighty to save; even Jesus, who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him, and ever liveth to make intercession for them. To him would we look, and upon him would we depend for the pardon of our sins, and the salvation of our souls.

O that we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made comformable to his death. May the cross of Christ be the means

of crucifying the world unto us, and us unto the world. Make us followers of Christ as dear children, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We would most thankfully acknowledge the manifold tokens we have received of thy long suffering patience and forbearance. O that there were in each of us a heart to know thee better; to meditate continually on thy mercies; to love thee more entirely; to search out the designs of thy goodness towards us. Empty our hearts of all other things. Draw us, and we shall run after thee. Help us to show our love to thee by growing in acquaintance with thee; and by a constant doing of thy will on earth as it is done in heaven.

As thy ways are ways of pleasantness, and all thy paths peace; grant that we may never admit a thought against the purity and strictness of thy holy law. May we always admire and approve it, and delight in it after the inner man. Manifest, we pray thee, thy powerful grace in conquering our will; and assist us to go from strength to strength, and so run our Christian race as to obtain the heavenly prize.

May thy daily providential dispensations, *whether* afflictive or prosperous, quicken us

in our pursuit of everlasting rest. Prepare our minds by holy trust and fortitude for what every night or day may bring forth, and persuade us that whatever thou doest will be in wisdom and in love. May we lie down this night in peace with thee; and at last may we lie down and sleep in Jesus; to whom, with the Father, and the eternal Spirit be glory for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

"That your joy might be full."—John xv. 11.

It is the pleasure of our bounteous Lord, that none of his family should want comfort, he would have our joys exceed our sorrows. Greatly as he delights in the humble and contrite soul; yet he rejoices still more in those that cheerfully trust in him. Hath our Lord spread a table in the wilderness, and furnished it with the promises of everlasting glory? Hath he set before us that flesh which is meat indeed, and that blood which is drink indeed? Has he invited us to sit *down and feed;* and furnished us with faith *nd love? And* has he not then a desire that

we should rejoice in him? O let not our unbelieving souls ever charge our uncomfortable heaviness upon him, who has offered the highest delights that heaven can afford and God can bestow. Does he not bid us delight ourselves in the Lord, and promise to give us the desires of our hearts? Hath he not charged us to rejoice evermore: yea, to sing aloud, and shout for joy? Why should any then draw back discouraged? God is willing if we are. He would fain have it our constant frame and daily business, to be near him in believing meditations, and to live in the sweetest thoughts of his goodness. O blessed work, employment fit for the sons of God! Thou, O Lord, spreadest before us a rich and spiritual banquet. But, alas! we are blind, and cannot perceive it; we are sick, and cannot relish spiritual food; we are so benumbed, that we cannot put forth a hand to lay hold on eternal life. We therefore humbly beg thy grace; that, as thou hast in thy blessed word opened heaven to us, so thou wouldest open our eyes to see it, and our hearts to desire and seek it. Awake, O thou spirit of life, and breathe upon us thy graces. O lift us up from earth, that we may walk in the paradise of thy love and grace here; and by faith realiz

hat thou hast laid up for them that love
ıd wait for thee hereafter.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

Come, ye that love the Lord,
  And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
  And thus surround the throne.

The sorrows of the mind
  Be banish'd from this place;
Religion never was design'd
  To make our pleasures less.

Let those refuse to sing
  That never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King
  May speak their joys abroad.

The men of grace have found
  Glory begun below;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground
  From faith and hope may grow.

The hill of Zion yields
  A thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
  Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high.

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

O our God, who dwellest in the highest heavens, with what awe and reverence ought we to make mention of thy name; with what humility of soul ought we to acknowledge thy divine grace, that thou who art so great and highly exalted, dost humble thyself to take notice of such sinful and rebellious children as we are!

Adored be thy wonderful love, O most merciful and gracious Father, who hast encouraged our approaches to thee; who didst not utterly cast us out of thy sight when we had turned our backs upon thee, but didst send thy only begotten Son into the world to redeem and save us. We thank thee with all our souls that he bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead unto sin might live unto righteousness. O Lord, how infinitely are we indebted to thee for giving him for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify us unto him.

self a peculiar people, zealous of good works. O let not the great things which the Lamb of God has done and suffered for perishing sinners be lost unto us; but may we love more that adorable Saviour who bought us at the inestimable price of his own blood.

Heavenly Father, give us the grace of thy Holy Spirit to change and renew us throughout in spirit, soul, and body; and to enable us daily to amend our lives according to thy holy word. We hope it is the desire of our souls to be possessed with more steady and affectionate thoughts of thee, to be more inflamed with love to thee and all mankind. O dispose our will to resign itself to thine, cheerfully to comply with thy providence, and to employ all opportunities of doing or receiving good.

O God, deny us not this great grace, though we are unworthy of the least of thy mercies; but strengthen us with might by thy Spirit in the inner man. O Holy Spirit, do thou graciously teach and direct us in the right way, and assist us to walk in it: cheer and refresh us when we are ready to faint; uphold us lest we fall; and enable us with *fervent desires* to implore thy mercy, that *with more* resolved watchfulness, and more

earnest prayer we may be strengthened i
the time to come.

Thou, O Lord, givest us temporal ble
ings, that we may thirst after spiritu
and thou fillest us with spiritual blessings
Christ, that we may long for the accompli
ment of them in immortal life. Thou do
us good before we ask; and thou giv
liberally unto us, that thou mayest encoura
us to ask for more. Thou pitiest us wh
we have no compassion for ourselves; a
art still careful of us when we trifle with t
richest mercies. O let this be our rejoicin
to have Christ formed in us; and to be ma
like unto the Son of thy love: and give
a lively and animating hope of living wi
him in his heavenly kingdom with all th
that love his appearing. Amen and Am

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

My God, my King, thy various praise
Shall fill the remnant of my days;
Thy grace employ my humble tongue
Till death and glory raise the song.

The wings of every hour shall bear
Some thankful tribute to thine ear;
And every setting sun shall see
New works of duty done for thee.

Thy truth and justice I'll proclaim;
Thy bounty flows an endless stream;
Thy mercy swift; thine anger slow,
But dreadful to the stubborn foe.

But who can speak thy wondrous deeds?
Thy greatness all our thoughts exceeds:
Vast and unsearchable thy ways;
Vast and immortal be thy praise.

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

Wherewith shall we come before thee,) Lord, or bow ourselves in thy presence, O hou Most High? Cause us to come unto hee in faith, mentioning no other name, leading no other righteousness, and trust- ıg in no other atonement, than the name, ighteousness, and atonement of thy blessed ion, and our adorable Mediator Jesus Christ. n him we desire to be found: through him e hope for favour with thee and acceptance ı thy sight.

Blessed be thy goodness for the mercies f the past day; for the blessings of thy Providence, the comforts of thy Spirit, and he *privileges* we enjoy. We thank thee at we have been protected from danger;

and above all, if we have been in any measure withheld by grace from sinning against thee.

Sinners indeed we are, and sinned against thee we have even at the best of times, and in the best of frames; but, O Lord, we would be unfeignedly thankful if thou hast given us any desire to live unto thee. O make those desires effectual through the mighty working of thy Spirit, who is able to subdue even our rebellious hearts to himself.

We beseech thee to blot out the transgressions of the past day, and of the week now closing. Look upon the covenant of thy grace; and through the blood of that covenant forgive us all our sins; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow. Shouldest thou deal with us after our sins, or reward us according to our deserts, alas! we could not stand in thy presence, nor be justified in thy sight.

But, though we are guilty and depraved, we rejoice that thou art gracious. We bless thee for that rich provision of grace and glory which thou hast made for thy penitent and believing people in the righteousness, sacrifice, and intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is their advocate with the Father, and the propitiation for their sins.

Thou hast delivered thy redeemed from going down into the pit, and hast found a ransom for them. O satisfy us, by thy blessed Spirit, that we are of this happy number.

Continue thy goodness towards us this night; grant that we may rest under thy defence, O thou Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thy mercies to us have been equally great, numerous, and unmerited: may we ever experience thee to be a God of love. Perfect, O Lord, that which concerneth us, and forsake not the work of thine own hands. Bless us with thy presence, grace, and protection. Suffer not the enemy to have an advantage over us; neither let the sons of wickedness approach to hurt us.

Be with all thy people every where. Visit especially with thy salvation those whom we desire to bear upon our hearts before thee. May those who are near and dear to us be near and dear to God: and whatever separation thy good Providence may make upon earth, grant that we and they may meet with joy at thy right hand in the day of judgment.

May all orders and degrees of men from the highest to the lowest fear God, love the truth, and work righteousness. Strengthen

and relieve those who labour under any affliction in mind, body, or estate; and make all work together for their good.

Preserved, O Lord, by thy gracious mercy we are come to the close of another week. Since the commencement of it many of our fellow creatures have left this earthly scene. O God most holy, O God most mighty, suffer us not to close our eyes in death before we have been enabled to embrace the Lord's Christ in the arms of faith, and to say, "Now, Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

In all the duties of thy holy day before us may we look to the Spirit of grace for willingness and power to serve thee faithfully; and may our entire dependence be upon the merits of Jesus Christ the righteous. Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us: may we wait for thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple: O make our souls joyful in thy house of prayer.

Be thou present in the worshipping assemblies of thy saints; meet them that desire to meet with thee, and visit with thy salvation those who wait on thee in the ordinances of thy appointment. May such as seek thee be joyful and glad in thee; and find by

happy experience, that one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere; that thy house is indeed the house of God, and the gate of heaven.

Be with all the faithful stewards of thy mysteries. Enable them rightly to divide the Word of Truth, applying it to the hearts and consciences of their hearers according to their several cases. Pardon the unworthiness of ministers and people; and vouchsafe to own thy glorious Gospel by making it effectual to the salvation of them that hear. Every spiritual and temporal mercy we request for the alone sake of Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm
" tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
" Those that be planted in the house of the Lord
" shall flourish in the courts of our God. They
" shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall
" be fat and flourishing; to shew that the Lord
" is upright: *he* is my rock, and *there is* no un-
" righteousness in him."—Psalm xcii. 12-15.

The trees of righteousness grow not in common soil, but in the vineyard and house of the Lord. It is from his grace, by his word and Spirit, that they receive all the spiritual sap and virtue that keeps them alive and makes them fruitful. They put themselves under the divine protection, they fix themselves under divine ordinances, take root in them, and bring forth all their fruit *to God's* honour and glory.

They shall grow in grace, in usefulness, *and in* beauty. Like the tall cedars of

Lebanon they shall grow nearer heaven, and with a holy ambition shall aspire towards the world above.

They shall flourish to the credit of their profession, and to the comfort and joy of their own souls. While the wicked flourish like the grass which is soon withered, the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: their leaves shall not wither. Being planted in the house of the Lord they shall flourish in the courts of their God: there their root is, and there their branches spread: their life is hid with Christ in God. Their light also shines before men, and they adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things.

They shall be fruitful. Did they bear only leaves they would be trees of no value. But they shall bring forth fruit—fruits of holiness, and lively devotion, useful conversation; and those good works by which God is glorified and all around them edified—the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God. Other trees when they are old leave off bearing; but the plants of righteousness shall bring forth fruit even in old age. In them the strength of grace shall not fail with the *strength of nature*. The last days of the *saints have been* their best days, and their

last works their best works; to shew that they are upright, and that the Lord is faithful, who has promised that those who wait on him shall renew their strength. The faithfulness of God is the believer's triumph. If they are plants of righteousness, it is because He has planted them by his right hand. If they bring forth fruit, it is because He has made them fruitful and flourishing. If their leaf does not wither, it is because He has planted a living principle of grace within; if they prosper, it is to shew that the Lord is faithful, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Lord, 'tis a pleasant thing to stand
In gardens planted by thy hand:
Let me within thy courts be seen,
Like a young cedar fresh and green.

There grow thy saints in faith and love,
Blest with thine influence from above:
Not Lebanon with all its trees
Yields such a comely sight as these.

The plants of grace shall ever live:
Nature decays, but grace must thrive.
Time, that doth all things else impair,
Still makes them flourish strong and fair.

Laden with fruits of age they shew
The Lord is holy, just, and true:
None that attend his gates shall find
A God unfaithful or unkind.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

O Lord God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, before whom angels and archangels veil their faces, we desire to approach thy divine Majesty with the reverence and godly fear which becomes those who are round about thee. We would worship and fall down before thee, the Lord our maker, acknowledging that we are unworthy to come into thy glorious presence, and trusting for acceptance only in the atonement and merits of Christ Jesus, our only Mediator and Redeemer. But through him, and by the influences of the Holy Ghost, may we draw nigh with filial confidence.

O enable us to come to Christ, that out of his fulness we may receive all we need;—repentance, remission of sins, and the gift of thy Holy Spirit. May Jesus dwell in our *hearts by faith*, and may we be rooted and *grounded in love*. Teach us, O Lord, to

rely on his blood, and build all our hopes on his righteousness. Suffer us not to deceive ourselves with the form of godliness; but give us true faith that we may abide in Christ, and bring forth much fruit. O grant us devout hearts, a holy conversation, and a heavenly life.

May nothing keep us this day from our God. Thy Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. May it prove so to each of us. Let thy word preached be received by us in faith: enable us to give earnest heed to the things we hear, lest we should let them slip. May we glory in the preaching of Christ crucified.

Convince us most deeply of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, of the perfect purity, justice, and goodness of thy law, which we have broken; of the utter insufficiency of our own polluted righteousness to justify us in thy sight; and of our constant need of Christ in all his offices. O let none of us neglect so great salvation.

Blessed Lord, make thyself known in the assemblies of thy people this day. Assist all thy faithful ministers; and, that they may *truly please* thee, pour upon them the dew *of thy blessing*. While they are preaching *thy glorious* gospel may the Holy Ghost

give unto them abundant success. Let thy word have free course and be glorified in the conviction and conversion of sinners, and in the edification and comfort of thy saints. Quicken the dead in sin, awaken the careless, and enliven and invigorate the hearts and graces of thy people.

May we know the joyful sound, and walk in the light of thy countenance: in thy name let us rejoice all the day, and be exalted in thy righteousness. Make us strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; strong to resist Satan, sin, and unbelief; strong to fight the good fight of faith, to run with patience the race that is set before us, and lay hold on eternal life as thy free gift through the riches of thy grace.

O hasten that glorious period when the everlasting Gospel shall be proclaimed in every land; when the year of the redeemed shall come; and the name of Jesus be praised from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.

We humbly entreat thee also to grant these blessings to all who are near and dear to us; and that we may all worship thee in the same spirit of adoption, through our *only Mediator* and Advocate. Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

O ye that pant for living streams,
And pine away and die;
Here ye may quench your raging thirst
With springs that never dry.

Rivers of love and mercy here
In a rich ocean join;
Salvation in abundance flows
In streams of grace divine.

Dear Lord, the treasures of thy love
Are everlasting mines,
Deep as our helpless mis'ries are,
And boundless as our sins.

The happy gates of gospel grace
Stand open night and day:
Lord, we are come to seek supplies,
And drive our wants away.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

O Almighty Lord God, great, wonderful, *and holy.* Thou art exalted far above all *blessing* and praise; and yet humblest thy-

self to behold the things that are in heaven and in earth. Look down in mercy upon us who here present ourselves before thee on this evening of thine own day.

We have indeed abundant cause of humiliation in thy sight, on account of our manifold iniquities. We have been favoured this day with thy word and ordinances, with the means of grace, and opportunities of drawing near unto thee. Yet, alas, we must confess we have not rendered again according to thy benefits. Our services have been defective and defiled. Our prayers and praises have been cold and wandering, and too often disturbed by vain thoughts and unprofitable speculations. Yet, O Lord, reject us not, unworthy as we are; but accept us through the sacrifice and merits of our Lord Jesus Christ; and for his sake grant us, we beseech thee, all those gifts, and graces, and blessings which we severally need.

Impress more deeply upon our minds, O Lord, by the influence of thine Holy Spirit, thy word which we have this day heard and read. May we continually see more and more our need of that salvation which the Son of God hath purchased for us; and more earnestly seek, and more entirely de-

pend upon Him, as made of God unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Open our eyes that we may understand the wondrous things of thy law. Give us that enlarged view of its spiritual nature and requirements, that we may no longer seek to be justified by our own merits. Yet may we delight in thy law, may we count all thy precepts in all things to be right, and hate every false and evil way. O let us labor after an increasing conformity to thine holy image, and be habitually pressing towards the prize of our high calling.

Bless thy holy word to all who have heard it this day. O do thou, who alone canst give the increase, water the seed sown with the abundant influence of thy Holy Spirit. May it take deep root, and bring forth much fruit to the glory of thy name, the credit of our christian profession, and the everlasting salvation of our souls.

And we pray, O Lord, that the benefits of the Christian Sabbath may be extended far and wide; that souls may be converted from idols to thee the living God, and that the reign of death may be destroyed. In our own land may we see a greater reverence of thy day; may true religion revive

and flourish among us, and every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. May many, who now say of the Sabbath, what a weariness is it, be brought to call it their delight, the holy of the Lord, and honourable.

May the light of the Gospel arise and shine on every land, which hitherto has not been cheered by its glorious life-giving beams. May the heathen know thee; may thine ancient people the Jews be brought to acknowledge and adore the true Messiah, and be gathered in with the fulness of the Gentiles.

May all who preach thy word be found faithful to its doctrines; strengthen them with thy mighty power: and may those especially who are gone forth to distant lands to proclaim thy grace to every guilty fallen child of Adam find thee a very present help.

And now, O Lord, we commend ourselves, and all our absent friends and relatives, to thy fatherly protection through the approaching night, and the week upon which we have entered. Be with us: forgive for the Redeemer's sake all our short comings and misdoings; especially remember not against us the *sins of our* holy things. Sanctify us by *thy word, and* make us meet for that blessed

Sabbath above which shall never end. There with all thy chosen people may we unite in one universal song of praise, ascribing dominion, might, majesty, and power, to him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great "and precious promises."—2 Peter, i. 4.

Worthy indeed of all acceptation, of our warmest and most affectionate gratitude, of our highest confidence and joy! For they are the words of God, the greatest and the best of beings: his gracious words; the dictates of his infinite and undeserved goodness and love; words that speak the greatness of his mercy, and display all the perfections of his nature in the most amiable light. Their truth is ratified by the blood of the everlasting covenant, rendering all the divine promises to us yea and amen; God himself bearing witness by signs and wonders. They are offered to us with freeness the most u

bounded: so that whosoever will may come and partake of them. They will make us truly wise, holy, and spiritually minded: they will support us under the severest trials; and inspire us with the noblest magnanimity and elevation of soul: and, in a word, unite us to God, and make us partakers of his likeness and glory.

O, my God, let me never neglect or despise these precious promises; nor let me ever hope for comfort from them but in the way of real holiness. Let me never more despond in any of my trials and afflictions; never doubt the power, the love, the faithfulness of that God, who has given such words for my consolation. Here, my soul, leave all thy burdens and cares! When discouraged and fainting, here be thy rest! These are the everlasting arms that strengthen and uphold all that fear God; that conduct them through life, deliver them in death, and ensure their complete and eternal salvation.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

Begin, my tongue, some heavenly theme,
And speak some boundless thing;
The mighty works, or mightier name
Of our eternal King.

Tell of his wondrous faithfulness,
And sound his power abroad;
Sing the sweet promise of his grace,
And the performing God.

Proclaim salvation from the Lord
For wretched dying men:
His hand has writ the sacred word
With an immortal pen.

Engrav'd as on eternal brass
The mighty promise shines;
Nor can the powers of darkness ra se
Those everlasting lines.

His every word of grace is strong
As that which built the skies;
The voice that rolls the stars along
Speaks all the promises.

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

O most gracious Lord God, the eyes all wait upon thee: thou art the hope of a the ends of the earth. In thee we live, ar move, and have our being: thou givest u *life, and* health, and all things. Still the *takest* care of us, and watchest over us eve *in the* hours of sleep, when we are unable

take care of ourselves. Thy mercies are daily renewed; thy goodness is repeated every morning: yea every moment dost thou give us fresh occasion of praise and thanksgiving. Blessed be thy name for the peace, rest, and safety of the night past.

Enable us in the strength of thy grace to love thee truly, to serve thee faithfully, and to depend on thee without wavering. In all our ways may we acknowledge thee; and be thou graciously pleased to establish our goings and direct our path.

We desire to put ourselves under thy gracious conduct, and thy fatherly protection this day. We beg the heavenly guidance, blessing, and assistance of thy good Spirit to choose our inheritance for us, and to dispose of us and all that concerns us to the glory of thy great name.

O Lord, withdraw not thy tender mercies from us, neither shut up thy loving-kindness in displeasure; but grant us such a well-founded assurance of thy free acceptance of us, and of thy gracious intentions towards us in the Son of thy love; that our hearts may bless thee, and all that is within us may praise thy holy name. May we each of us *be enabled to* say from our own experience, "*thy ways* are ways of pleasantness, and all

thy paths are peace;" in keeping of them there is great reward. He that loveth them loveth life.

O Lord, keep us this day from sin; subdue as well as pardon our iniquities: and may we exercise ourselves to have always a conscience void of offence, both towards God and towards man.

Whilst we are upon earth, O grant us a supply of all things needful for us in the house of our pilgrimage. Sanctify to us our enjoyments and our occupations, our comforts and our crosses; every condition we are in, and every event that shall befall us. Enable us to live to thy honour and glory; and so to pass through things temporal, that finally we lose not the things which are eternal. If thou enlighten us not we shall run into error; if thou prevent not we shall relapse into sin; if thou preserve us not we shall fall into dangers. O let thy good providence be our defence and security, and thy Holy Spirit be our comforter, guide, and counsellor in all our ways: until, through the merits of thy Son, and the multitude of thy mercies, thou hast made us meet for the inheritance of thy saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

For Monday Evening.

rd, I have made thy word my choice,
My lasting heritage:
ere shall my noblest powers rejoice,
My warmest thoughts engage.

read the histories of thy love,
And keep thy laws in sight;
ile through the promises I rove,
With ever fresh delight.

s a broad land of wealth unknown,
Where springs of life arise;
ds of immortal bliss are sown,
And hidden glory lies.

e best relief that mourners have;
It makes our sorrows blest:
r fairest hope beyond the grave,
And our eternal rest.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

hou glorious Majesty of heaven and
, we would with all humility and rever-
dore thee as above our highest thoughts,
finitely beyond all our praises. When

we contemplate thine almighty power, thine infinite loving-kindness, and thine awful holiness and justice, as manifested in thy wonderful works and in thy holy word, we are ashamed that we do not fear, and reverence, and love thee more. O God of all grace, grant unto us, we beseech thee, thy Holy Spirit to renew thine image on our souls; awaken our minds to a more lively remembrance of thee our Creator, our Redeemer, our compassionate Father in Christ Jesus.

Though we have sinned, we have an advocate with thee, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. In his name we are encouraged to come unto thee, and to seek the blessings he has purchased for us with his own blood. Glory be to thee, O Father, that it hath pleased thee that in *Him* should all fulness dwell: that the guilty may be justified; the unholy be cleansed; captive sinners redeemed and set free; and the lost and perishing restored to the richest blessings by the salvation which is in Christ Jesus.

We plead thy gracious promise, that all things whatever we ask in prayer believing we shall receive. O give us faith to plead with thee for the fulfilment of thine own words. Teach us so to ask that we may

receive, and so to knock at the door of thy mercy, that it may be opened to us.

We pray that thou wouldest impart to each of us a heart truly contrite for sin, and an humble frame of mind. Grant us faith to embrace and ever hold fast thy promises of grace and glory. May we be endued with a spirit of adoption, crying unto thee, Abba, Father. O shed thy love abroad in our hearts, and make us to abound in all the fruits of the Spirit,—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, meekness, goodness, temperance, righteousness, and truth. Convince us daily that this world is not our rest, that the earth and all that is therein shall be burned up; and seeing these things are so, may we exercise ourselves in all holy conversation and godliness.

Father of mercies, we desire to bless thee for all the favours of the past day; and entreat thee to continue to us thy protection and blessing through the night. Prepare us for the duties and events of the morrow. We know not what a day or a night may bring forth; in the midst of life we are in death. Before another day it may please thee to require some of our souls. O that we may be found always ready, having the loins of our minds girded and our lamps

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Awake and sing the song
  Of "Moses and the Lamb;"
Wake ev'ry heart, and ev'ry tongue
  To praise the Saviour's name.

Sing of his dying love,
  Sing of his rising power;
Sing how he intercedes above
  For those whose sins he bore.

Sing till we feel our hearts
  Ascending with our tongues;
Sing till the love of sin departs,
  And grace inspires our songs.

Soon shall we hear him say,
  "Ye blessed children come;"
Soon will he call us hence away,
  And take his wand'rers home.

There shall our raptur'd tongue
  His endless praise proclaim;
And sweeter voices chant the song
  Of "Moses and the Lamb."

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious, lo *suffering,* and abundant in goodness

truth, thou keepest mercy for thousands, pardoning iniquity, transgression, and sin; thou dost not retain thine anger for ever, because thou delightest in mercy. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore do the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings; and therefore do we desire still to look up to that bountiful hand of thine which has satisfied us with every good thing.

O Lord our God, be thou pleased to look down mercifully upon us, and be thou gracious and favourable to us. Look not upon our sins which are more than we can number, and greater than we can express; but behold us in mercy, through the merits and mediation of thy Son our Saviour, who did no sin, and was manifested that he might take away our sin. O that we may receive of his fulness grace sufficient for us, to pardon our sins and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons and sanctify our souls, and to complete upon our hearts and lives that truly renovating change, which may transform us into the blessed image after which we were created anew in Christ Jesus; and make us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the *saints in light*.

Teach us, O Lord our God, to use this

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Teach us, O Lord our God, to use this

world without abusing it; and to enjoy the things of it without losing our part in thy love, which is better than life. Whatever we have of the world may we have it with thy love, sanctified to us by thy word and prayer. And whatsoever we want of the things of this life, O Lord our heavenly Father, leave us not destitute of those things that accompany salvation: but fill our souls with such graces of thy Spirit, as may enable us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; that others seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven.

And now that thou hast renewed our lives and thy mercies to us this morning, help us, gracious God, to renew our desires and endeavours to live in obedience to thy holy will, and to the honour of thy blessed name. O grant that we may think, and speak, and will, and act as becometh the children of our heavenly Father; and so find the strong consolation of thy gracious acceptance of us in Christ Jesus our Saviour; in whom we desire to be found, in life, in death, and for ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Tuesday Evening.

My soul, repeat his praise
Whose mercies are so great;
Whose anger is so slow to rise,
So ready to abate.

God will not always chide;
And when his rod is felt,
His strokes are fewer than our crimes,
And lighter than our guilt.

High as the heav'ns are rais'd
Above the ground we tread,
So far the riches of his grace
Our highest thoughts exceed.

His pow'r subdues our sins;
And his forgiving love,
Far as the east is from the west,
Doth all our guilt remove.

The pity of the Lord
To those that fear his name,
Is such as tender parents feel;
He knows our feeble frame.

He knows we are but dust,
Scatter'd with ev'ry breath.
His anger, like a rising wind,
Can send us swift to death.

Our days are like the grass,
Or as the morning flower:
If one sharp blast sweeps o'er the field,
It withers in an hour.

But thy compassions, Lord,
To endless years endure;
And children's children ever find
Thy words of promise sure.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and art able to give more than we can either ask or think; pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things of which our consciences are afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

Once more, O Lord, we are permitted to present ourselves before thee; let thy merciful ears be open to our prayers: and that we *may obtain* our petitions, make us to ask *only such* things as shall please thee. We *know that* we cannot pray aright, but as thy

grace influences both our hearts and lips. O give us a hearty desire to pray. May we now seek thy grace, as a condemned criminal would ask for mercy of his judge: and do thou, O Lord, vouchsafe that mercy to our sinful souls for thy name's sake.

Our days and years pass away with the greatest speed; and every one of them brings us nearer to death and eternity. O may we feel a lively conviction of the vanity of all worldly pursuits; and the necessity, as well as advantage of living by faith on the Son of God: that so, whenever death shall overtake us, it may find us prepared to leave the world and go to thee. O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire. Cause us to lie down this night with our affections set upon things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto us that we may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world,

our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found.

Suffer us not to be deceived by lying vanities. Suffer us not to deceive ourselves by the form of religion without its power but grant us thy Spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will.

Let us not put our trust in any thing that we do; for, alas, all our doings are nothing worth! but may our dependence be in him who bore our sins and carried our sorrows. May his blessed name become every day more precious to us. May we always most thankfully receive this thine inestimable gift, and daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life. And at length may we, through his merits and mediation, attain those blissful regions whither he has gone before to prepare a place for his people; that where he is, there we may be also, to be with him and behold his glory. In him may we be found and accepted in life, in death, and for ever. *Amen.*

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful "sound."—Psalm lxxxix. 15.

The joyful sound of their deliverer and their Saviour. Such was thy God, O Israel! and such is thy God, O believer! The Gospel is indeed a joyful sound: a sound of victory over the powers of darkness, and of liberty from the slavery of sin; a sound of pardoning mercy for rebellious mortals. A joyful proclamation that God will indeed dwell with men, and that they shall have fellowship with him and with his Son Jesus Christ. A proclamation of the gracious and sanctifying influence of his Holy Spirit to renew their hearts to holiness, and help them to do his will; and of a heavenly crown and eternal glory to him that overcometh.

Blessed are the people that hear this joyful sound. They shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance; in thy name shall they rejoice all the day. They shall order their steps by thy word, be guided by thine eye, and delight themselves in thy consolations. They shall go through all the

exercises of a holy life, under the powerful influences of God's loving-kindness. Blessed is the believer who thus derives his comfort from God's favour, and abides in his love.

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

Bless'd are the souls that hear and know
  The gospel's joyful sound;
Peace shall attend the path they go,
  And light their steps surround.

Their joy shall bear their spirits up,
  Through their Redeemer's name;
His righteousness exalts their hope,
  Nor Satan dares condemn.

The Lord, our glory and defence,
  Strength and salvation gives;
Israel, thy King for ever reigns,
  Thy God for ever lives.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

O Lord our God, thy name is most excellent in all the earth; thou hast set thy glory *above the* heavens, and art worthy to be *celebrated* with the everlasting praises of *men and* angels; for thou hast created all

things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Thy hands, O Lord, have made and fashioned us; and thou hast breathed into our nostrils the breath of life; yea, thou upholdest our souls in life. As we are the workmanship of thy power, O make us likewise the children of thy grace, created anew in Christ Jesus unto righteousness and true holiness. Give us some delightful assurance that thou hast formed us for thyself, by causing us to shew forth thy praise; and by enabling us to live to thy glory, as we are hourly sustained by thy bounty.

But we must confess, O Lord, that we have not yielded thee that glory which thou hast made us capable of rendering. We are prone to forget thee, who art never unmindful of us; and to disobey thee, whose goodness to us is unwearied. For these things, O Lord; for the sinfulness of our nature and of our lives, we desire to pour out our hearts, and to humble our guilty selves before thee: entreating thee, for the sake of thy dear Son and of thy mercies in him, to work in us true repentance, and to grant us full and free forgiveness.

Strengthen us, O Lord, with might by *thy Spirit in the* inner man; and make us

watchful against and victorious over the corruptions of our hearts, the temptations of Satan, and the sinful cares and allurements of the world. Destroy in us every root of bitterness, every plant which thy grace hath not planted. Exterminate every evil habit and rebellious emotion which exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and against the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Increase and confirm in us more and more thy true knowledge, and faith, and fear, and love, and every grace of thy holy Spirit. Let not one be wanting; let not one be weak. But grant us such manifestations of thyself; and so conform us to the image of thy holiness, that our lives may be comfortable to ourselves, profitable to others, and honourable to thee our God.

And whatever may befall us as to the concerns of this life, may we still be found in the path of duty, fearing God and working righteousness; making it evident to all around us, that we have been with Jesus; that we have learned of him; that we are influenced by his Spirit, guided by his example, and are pressing forward to his *kingdom*.

Day by day may we magnify thee, O *Lord*, who crownest every day with thy

mercies. We bless thee for the rest, protection, and perservation of the last night. O cause us to hear thy loving-kindness this morning, for in thee do we trust: make us to know the way wherein we should go, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Cast us not away from thy presence; take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but direct our hearts into the love of thy holy name, and our feet into the way of thy testimonies. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to the glory of God; and walk as seeing him who is invisible.

Command thy angels to encamp around us, and to bear us in their hands; and may their God and ours be the strength of our hearts, the guide of our ways, and our portion for ever and ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

How shall the young secure their hearts,
  And guard their lives from sin?
Thy word the choicest rules imparts
  To keep the conscience clean.

When that pervades th' inquiring mind,
  And spreads its light abroad;
The meanest souls instruction find,
  And raise their thoughts to God.

'Tis like the sun, a heavenly light,
  To guide us all the day;
And through the dangers of the night
  A lamp to lead our way.

The men that keep thy law with care,
  And meditate thy word,
Grow wiser than their teachers are,
  And better know the Lord.

Thy precepts make me truly wise;
  I hate the sinner's road:
I hate my own vain thoughts that rise;
  But love thy law, my God.

The starry heavens thy rule obey,
  The earth maintains her place;
And these thy servants night and day
  Thy skill and power express.

But still thy law and gospel, Lord,
  Have lessons more divine:
Not earth stands firmer than thy word,
  Nor stars so nobly shine.

Thy word is everlasting truth;
How pure is every page!
O may it guide our earliest youth,
And cheer our latest age.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we rejoice that under all our sinfulness, weakness, and danger, we have a throne of grace to go to; and that thou invitest us to come with holy boldness, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We would not, O Lord, abuse thy grace, or make our weakness an excuse for negligence and sloth. We confess thou hast already given us more strength than we have used; and we charge it upon ourselves, and not on thee, that we have not received more abundant supplies. O may we for the future be found more diligent in the use of all the appointed means of grace.

Be mercifully pleased to shed abroad thy sanctifying influences on our souls, to form us for every duty which thou requirest. *Plant every Christian grace and virtue deep in our hearts;* and maintain and strengthen

them amidst all assaults, both from within and from without.

Help us to remember at all times, that every secret of our souls is open to thee; and to guard against the first rising of sin, and the first approaches of temptation. And that Satan may not find room for his evil suggestions, we pray, O Lord, that thou wouldest graciously fill our hearts with thy Spirit, and take up thine abode there. Dwell in us, and walk with us, and let our bodies be the temples of the Holy Ghost.

May we be so joined to Christ Jesus our Lord as to become one spirit with him. May we so wait upon the Lord as to renew our spiritual strength, to run without weariness, and to walk without fainting; going on from one degree of faith and love to another, till we appear before thee our God in Zion.

While we are here we are surrounded with dangers and difficulties. Blessed God, to thine almighty power we flee. Let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. We dare not say, we will never forsake or deny thee; *but we hope* we can say, we would not do so. *O put thy* fear and love in our hearts, that *we may not* depart from thee: and root out

those corruptions from them which in an hour of pressing temptation might make us fall.

Strengthen our faith, O Lord; encourage our hope; and inspire us with an heroic resolution in opposing every thing that obstructs us in our way to heaven. Keep us at all times by thy mighty power. Whereever thou leadest, there let us follow; and whatever station thou appointest for us, there let us labour. In the midst of dangers and discouragements may we look unto Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation; and be made at last more than conquerors through him that loved us. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling; and to do for us more than we can ask or think; to him be glory for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall "be comforted."—Matt. v. 4.

Would we learn who are truly blessed, *we must look into* our Bibles; we must sit *at the feet of* Jesus. There we shall find

that the first step to blessedness lies in being poor in spirit, and in mourning for sin: and that the next step to that felicity is, to be daily and earnestly supplicating the throne of grace for an interest in the love of God through Christ. There we shall learn that the only real happiness consists in the enjoyment of pardon of sin; and interest in the blessing of the life to come; purity and holiness of heart; the supports of divine grace; communion with God in his worship in this world; and the perfection of holiness, glory, and joy, which the gospel promises in the next.

Do thou, my soul, choose this better part. Be not afraid of those convictions that would lead thee to mourn for sin. Sin should be always thy affliction, and holiness thy delight. Thou art then happy indeed. The consolation of Christ as thy righteousness, strength, and salvation is thine. Thou shalt feel its reviving and rejoicing power even in this world; and possess the fulness of joy in that which is to come. He himself has said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." O that I could *always keep* this gracious promise in view! *particularly* in the seasons of affliction, when I *most need* such consolations.

But while we encourage a truly spiritual ncern for sin, let us not indulge a me- ıcholy gloom. The bright hopes which e gospel gives us of present comfort and erlasting joy should inspire us with cheer- l gratitude to the divine goodness. And ıen we can rejoice in nothing else, let us joice in the assurance Christ has given us, at though we now go forth weeping; yet ›aring precious seed we shall doubtless me again with joy, bringing our sheaves ith us: that though mourners now, we ıall be comforted in his due time.

HYMN

For Thursday Morning.

Blest are the humble souls that see
Their emptiness and poverty:
Treasures of grace to them are given,
And crowns of joy laid up in heaven.

Blest are the men of broken heart,
Who mourn for sin with inward smart:
The blood of Christ divinely flows,
A healing balm for all their woes.

Blest are the meek, who stand afar
From rage and passion, noise and war:
God will secure their happy state,
And plead their cause against the great.

Blest are the souls that thirst for grace,
Hunger and long for righteousness:
They shall be well supplied, and fed
With living streams and living bread.

Blest are the men whose bowels move,
And melt with sympathy and love:
From Christ the Lord shall they obtain
Like sympathy and love again.

Blest are the pure whose hearts are clean
From the defiling powers of sin:
With endless pleasure they shall see
A God of spotless purity.

Blest are the men of peaceful life,
Who quench the coals of growing strife:
They shall be called the heirs of bliss,
The sons of God, the God of peace.

Blest are the suff'rers who partake
Of pain and shame for Jesu's sake:
Their souls shall triumph in the Lord;
Glory and joy are their reward.

PRAYER

For Thursday Morning.

O Lord our God, we desire with humility *and holy* fear to draw near to the footstool *of thy* throne, to give thee the glory du

unto thy name. On the morning of this new day we direct our prayer unto thee and look up. Accept our united thanksgivings and praises for the mercies of the past night. We have been refreshed by sleep, and permitted to rise in health and peace.

May it be our sincere desire and purpose of heart to begin, and spend, and close this day with thee. Arm our minds and hearts against all the temptations to which we may be this day exposed, and with every temptation do thou make a way for our escape, that we may be able to endure.

Thou hast formed us for thyself, that we should shew forth thy praise. But, O Lord, our God, we acknowledge with shame before thee, that we have not brought thee that glory for which we were made. O how greatly have we dishonoured thee, our God, in the whole course of our lives! time after time forgetting thee, the gracious giver of all our good things. Though thou hast never been unmindful of us, nor been weary of doing us good; yet we have not only forgotten thee, but we have disobeyed thee, and rebelled against thee. We have set up our own will against thy wise and holy will; *we have followed* the devices and desires of *our own hearts:* we have done what we ought

not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done; and there is no health in us. For these things we desire to pour out our hearts, and to humble our sinful selves before thee. For the sake of thy dear Son have mercy upon us miserable sinners; and for the sake of that mercy of thine in Christ Jesus, which has moved thee to spare us so long, and to do so much for us, we beseech thee to give us repentance and pardon for all that is past, wherein we have offended thee. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great, and give us grace to serve thee faithfully for the time to come.

Assist us in the cheerful and zealous discharge of all the duties incumbent upon us as the disciples of thy Son. While we profess and embrace the doctrines of Christ, may we drink deep into his spirit: may the same mind be in us which was also in Him. As he was in this world, may we also aim to be, humble, and holy, and heavenly-minded, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. May we have grace to attend to the duties of the several relations we sustain, as parents and children, as masters and servants: may we abide with God in our respective callings, and be found faithful in all things.

Guide us, O our God, through all the trials and difficulties of this day. O that thou wouldest keep us from sin, that it may not grieve us; and whatever afflictions may be appointed us in this present life, may we have the good hope of passing through them all into thy heavenly kingdom.

O thou God of all the families of Israel, bless this family with all spiritual blessings; make every individual of it a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. Direct all our ways to please thee: and vouchsafe to crown all with thy blessing. Help us to see thy power, to own thy presence, to admire thy wisdom, and to love thy goodness in all thy creatures. And by all the comforts of this life draw our hearts still nearer to thyself, the Creator and giver of them all. And let our meditations of thee be sweet as well as frequent; that, delighting ourselves in the Lord, we may have the desires of our hearts. And at last gather us all, we earnestly beseech thee, with thy saints in glory everlasting. These mercies we implore in the name, and through the mediation of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

"Where are the mourners," saith the Lord,
"That wait and tremble at my word,
That walk in darkness all the day?
Come, make my name your trust and stay.

"No works or duties of your own
Can for the smallest sin atone;
The robes that nature may provide
Will not your least pollutions hide.

"The softest couch that nature knows
Can give the conscience no repose:
Look to my righteousness and live;
Comfort and peace are mine to give.

"Ye sons of pride, that kindle coals
With your own hands to warm your souls;
Walk in the light of your own fire,
Enjoy the sparks that ye desire.

"This is your portion at my hands,
Hell waits you with her iron bands:
Ye shall lie down in sorrow there,
In death, in darkness, and despair."

PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

O thou most glorious God, with whom a *thousand* years are as one day; and who

dwellest in the light to which no mortal can approach; we are reminded by the return of night how short our time is; and how soon we must finally close our eyes on all things here below, and open them on an eternal world.

O suffer us not to neglect the important work of life. But teach us so to meditate on the shortness, uncertainty, and vanity of things temporal; and on the reality, nearness, and importance of things eternal; that we may indeed live as strangers and pilgrims on earth, seeking a heavenly inheritance with our warmest affections, and the most persevering diligence. May the thoughts of death and judgment be so familiar to our minds, and so impressed on our hearts, that they may excite us to greater fervency in prayer, and greater earnestness in all the means of grace: that we may renounce every evil way, and so act in all things as to be prepared for a dying hour.

O give us such a knowledge of thy holy law, and of its spiritual and reasonable demands, that we may be deeply sensible of our exceeding sinfulness, and truly humbled before thee in unfeigned repentance. O thou heart-*searching* God, the sins and imperfec-*tions of the past* day, and of our whole lives,

are all open to thy view! Our vain thoughts, our idle words, and wrong tempers: Our selfish desires and motives, and manifold omissions of duty, leave us speechless and self-condemned before thee.

Help us, we earnestly entreat thee, under a sense of our guilt and danger, to fly to the only refuge and hope set before us,—the atoning blood of Jesus, which cleanseth from all sin. May we receive thy Gospel with a lively faith: and continually come unto thee, as the fountain of life and blessedness. O give us that well-grounded confidence in thy pardoning mercy, and that love, gratitude, and zeal, which may excite us to unreserved obedience; and make us steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Be graciously pleased, O merciful Father, to prosper by thy blessing whatever we have attempted this day in accordance with thy will. Sanctify to us all thy dispensations; and help us to thank thee with unfeigned hearts for the mercies and comforts with which thou hast favoured us.

Bless, O Lord, all endeavours to spread *thy Gospel*, and to promote the peace and *happiness* of mankind: and remember with *peculiar* regard those who are labouring in

distant and inhospitable regions to make known thy salvation among poor benighted heathen.

We desire to commend to thy gracious protection ourselves, and all connected with us by the ties of kindred and fellowship. Preserve us from outward calamities, and defend us against our spiritual enemies.

May we be prepared to meet our God, should we be called hence this night. If spared to awake in peace, and rise with the returning day, may we devote ourselves afresh to thy service. And may we wait all the days of our appointed time on earth in calm submission, careful watchfulness, and patient continuance in well doing. Vouchsafe us, O heavenly Father, these and all other mercies for the sake of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

THE SOUL DESIRING GOD AS ITS PORTION.

"Whom have I in heaven but thee?"—Psalm lxxiii. 25.

God reigns on an exalted throne above; *and the highest* potentates of that glorious *world are infinitely* more inferior to him

than they are superior to the meanest insect on earth. He is there, and he is here; he surrounds all his creatures with immensity, and preserves them all by his influence—In him we live, and move, and have our being: on him the angels are as dependent as the worms. Behold him, O my soul, with reverence and love! for he is transcendently glorious. In him unsearchable wisdom and almighty power are joined with unerring justice, unspotted holiness, and invariable truth. But remember that his name is love; that this blends itself with all his perfections. The beauty of them all is softened and sweetened by the over-flowings of goodness and mercy; those rich and gentle streams which not only water Paradise, but visit the regions of guilt and darkness here on earth. Why do we lift up our souls unto vanity, and grow fond of the empty shadows of this world? It is because God is forgotten. Alas! whither have we wandered! Into what a wilderness! I look round on all created beings and things, and can see no shelter or refreshment; they are like broken cisterns, whose waters fail me when I most need them. What then, O Lord, do I wait for? My hope is in thee; for thou art the fountain of living waters—all-sufficient for my happiness. Though I

had not on earth a friend or helper: yet if in this desolation I could look up to thee, and call thee my Father and my God, I should still be happy. I might pity the most prosperous on earth that were strangers to thee and to thy love. "There are many that say, Who will shew us any good?" O that thy Spirit may teach them true wisdom! But as for me, I will say, Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon me. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee! It grieves me to think how I have injured thee, and wronged my own soul in suffering other lords to have dominion over me. Thou requirest that we should give thee our hearts, and should be ready to leave all and follow thee. Lord, I would cheerfully consent; and hope that, through grace, I can say, "None of these things move me; neither should I count life dear unto me," if I may but gain thee for my portion. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

Sweet is the memory of thy grace,
My God, my heavenly King:
Let age to age thy righteousness
In sounds of glory sing.

God reigns on high, but not confines
  His goodness to the skies;
Through the whole earth his bounty shin
  And every want supplies.

With longing eyes thy creatures wait
  On thee for daily food;
Thy liberal hand provides their meat,
  And fills their mouths with good.

How kind are thy compassions, Lord!
  How slow thine anger moves!
But soon he sends his pardoning word
  To cheer the souls he loves.

Creatures, with all their endless race,
  Thy power and praise proclaim;
But saints that taste thy richer grace
  Delight to bless thy name.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

Almighty God, with thankful praise a
joy we meet the light of another mornii
How pleasant is it to behold the sun shini
in its morning brightness after the darkn
of the night! O heavenly Father, raise
our meditations to that unspeakable joy
pleasure which the blessed above posse

beholding thy face, and the face of the Lamb shining far brighter than the sun in the firmament.

As the Sun in the morning dispels all the darkness of the night, so may the light of thy word, with which we converse from time to time, dispel the darkness and ignorance of our minds. And as in the returning spring the Sun unbinds the earth and makes it fruitful; so, O Lord, do thou unbind our hearts; open the springs of love to thyself; and revive our souls with the influences of the Sun of righteousness.

O thou Father of lights, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our dark minds: shine upon our hard hearts: and kindle there heavenly light, and every sacred passion; that we may walk all the day in the light of thy countenance, and lie down at night in thy favour. By daily conversing with God, may we grow in all holiness of mind, till we are fitted to behold thy face in righteousness; and to be eternally satisfied when we awake in thy likeness.

As all thy works are every day praising thee, we would unite our feeble voices with *the hosts of* heaven, and the holy inhabi-*ants of the* earth, in giving glory to thee as

Creator, King, and Friend of the Universe. Every day brings with it the return of mercies and benefits more than we can number. Help us frequently to recount them; and implant in our hearts a grateful sense of all thine unspeakable love and goodness; especially as appearing in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May his Gospel every where succeed in rooting out all ungodliness and unrighteousness from the earth. And whatever others do, may we, by thy blessing on our reading and thinking on that gospel, be determined on the side of holiness against all sin: that in hope, and without presumption, we may commit ourselves, our dwelling places, our studies and labours to the Divine protection.

May holy thoughts mingle with all the business of the day. Help us daily to walk with God in a course of holy living; and never suffer us to give way to vain thoughts or ungoverned passions. But fill our souls with such apprehensions of thy infinite greatness and majesty, and such a belief of thy universal presence, as shall make us delight to please, serve, and imitate thee.

Forgive, O merciful God, all our past deadness, lukewarmness, and hypocrisy in

very Christian duty, either towards thyself towards man. Deliver us from such dangerous dispositions, and from every other temper that would hinder the acceptance of our prayers. May they be the prayers of the upright which are thy delight; and be accepted in thy beloved Son, and our dear Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Evening.

Be still, my heart! these anxious cares
To thee are burdens, thorns and snares:
They cast dishonour on the Lord,
And contradict his gracious word.

Brought safely by his hand thus far;
Why wilt thou now give place to fear?
How canst thou want if he provide?
Or lose thy way with such a guide?

When first before his mercy seat
Thou didst to him thy all commit;
He gave thee warrant from that hour
To trust his wisdom, love, and power.

Did ever trouble yet befall,
And he refuse to hear thy call?
And has he not his promise pass'd
That thou shalt overcome at last?

He, who has help'd me hitherto,
Will help me all my journey through;
And give me daily cause to raise
New Ebenezers to his praise.

Though rough and thorny be the road;
It leads thee home apace to God.
Then count the present trials small;
For heaven will make amends for all.

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

Most glorious and gracious God, who dwellest in the highest heavens; we desire to adore with the most lively thankfulness thy condescension and love towards the children of men. Though we have left thee, our heavenly Father; and rebelled against thee after thou hadst nourished and brought us up as children; thou dost invite us again to become the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

We bless thee for thy gracious declaration, that to as many as receive Christ Jesus, to them thou givest power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. O let us not receive thy grace in vain. We would come to thee acknowledging that we are unworthy to be called

thy children. But at the same time relying on thy promised mercy and grace, we would entreat that thou wouldest give us new hearts and create right spirits within us; that thou wouldest adopt us into thy family, and give unto us the spirit of adoption; that we may be followers of thee as dear children, conformed to the image of thy beloved Son, who is the first-born among many brethren.

Heavenly Father, let thy kingdom of grace *come in our hearts,* and make us temples of the Holy Ghost. Let no iniquity have dominion over us. Make us willing in the day of thy power. Rule in us by the power of thy truth: and may the truth make us free, translating us out of the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of thy dear Son. O give to each of us grace to know and do thy will as it is done in heaven. May we be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding: and make us perfect in every good word and work. Let the time past of our lives suffice us to have wrought the will of the flesh.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the kingdom of thy grace may come more and more *in our own land.* Here let thy word *have free course* and be glorified. May all *who agree in the* truth of thy holy word live

in unity and godly love, truly serving thee in righteousness and holiness. May all orders and degrees of men serve thee in their several callings, to the discouragement of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

And grant, O heavenly Father, that the *kingdoms of this world* may soon become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. May all be taught of God and know thee from the least to the greatest, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee.

And when thy *kingdom of Glory* shall come, may we be of their happy number who look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus, to come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. O make us ready for it, that we may lift up our heads with joy; knowing that our complete redemption draweth nigh. Mercifully hear these our prayers, and grant us every needful blessing for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

"It is finished."—John xix. 30.

These are the last words of Jesus; and ay not every penitent believer say, they ntain all my salvation. Redeeming love ıs now finished its glorious plan, and the ıumph of the cross is completed.

While angels desire to look into these ings, let our faith dwell upon their im- ɔrtant meaning. Then all the prophecies ıd promises relating to this great event ɜre fulfilled. All the types and figures the Mosaic dispensation were answered; ıd the dispensation itself was at an end. hen the work of the Redeemer's public inistry was accomplished: and his obe- ence completed. The true and proper onement for sin was then made; and the w and living way opened for the penitent ıd believing sinner. And then did infinite isdom, justice, and mercy shine forth in eir brightest glory. The awakened sinner, ho feels himself exposed to the reproaches conscience, the threatenings of the divine w, and the dread of death; who feels him- f every way undone and hopeless, may

here see an all-sufficient atonement, and a complete righteousness. Here he may look with solid, rational, and delightful hope; may feel his conscience purged from dead works; see his pardon signed and sealed; and a new title to eternal life made out and finished. Hence he receives strength against in-dwelling corruption, and all his spiritual adversaries. Hence he learns to hate all sin, to love and practise holiness, to delight in God, to overcome the world, and to seek a better, even an heavenly country. Here his heart feels the peace of God that passeth all understanding: here he begins the new and divine life, serving the living God, worshipping him in spirit and in truth, and obeying the law of righteousness with a cheerful and enlarged heart. Here he learns and practises patience and submission to the divine will; and waits for the Lord Jesus from heaven to finish his glorious plan of redemption. How great the guilt of trifling with a Saviour thus presented to our notice! A Saviour whose character and righteousness is so acceptable to God! That only name by which we can be saved! *Lord, give* me grace to see more and more *of my* unworthiness, that I may glory in the *cross* of Christ. Let this be my only refuge

pe, and consolation. Upon this enable e daily to live in humble and obedient ith; in the comfort of this let me die; and en I am sure it will be the subject of my miration, joy, and praise, throughout a ver-ending eternity. Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

Hark! the voice of love and mercy
Sounds aloud from Calvary;
See! it rends the rocks asunder,
Shakes the earth, and veils the sky.
"It is finish'd;"
Hear the dying Saviour cry.

"It is finish'd." O what pleasure
Do these precious words afford!
Heavenly blessings without measure
Flow to us from Christ the Lord.
"It is finish'd."
Saints, the dying words record.

Finish'd is the great salvation;
Jesus has fulfill'd the law;
Finish'd all that God had promis'd;
Death and hell no more shall awe!
"It is finish'd."
Sinners, hence your comfort draw.

Tune your harps anew, ye seraphs;
Join to sing the glorious theme;
All on earth and all in heaven,
Join to praise Emanuel's name.
Hallelujah!
Glory to the bleeding Lamb!

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

O God of all grace, blessed be thy glorious name, who of thy abundant mercy hast provided a Saviour for lost sinners. It is thy own command, that those who believe in God should believe also in him. "This is life eternal, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." In all we do we feel our need of this Saviour. There is no healing for our souls, but by his grace; no peace for our consciences, but in his reconciling us to God. Without this all-sufficient Redeemer we are lost for ever.

We beseech thee, therefore, O Lord, whatever else we want, leave us not destitute of an interest in this Saviour, whom thou art graciously pleased to hold forth, even to the most sinful and unworthy. We would thankfully accept of his invita

tion to the weary and heavy laden. We would come to be delivered from this burden of sin: we would take of the water of life, which is offered without money and without price. O make us more acquainted with this gracious way of salvation; and may we submit ourselves to the righteousness of God.

Dear Lord, give us thy Son to save us, and thy Spirit to draw us to him; and enable us to take hold of him, and believe in him to the saving of our souls. May we never distrust his power or his love; nor be faithless, but believing that "he is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him." To him would we bring our guilty souls to be washed in his blood, and sanctified by his Spirit. O let us have "peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." May "Christ dwell in our hearts by faith;" and may "the life we now live in the flesh, be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us:" and "though now we see him not, yet believing may we rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory."

O Lord, mercifully fulfil unto us thy gracious *promises* to blot out thy people's *transgressions,* not to suffer sin to have

dominion over them, to give them a new heart and a right spirit; to teach and quicken them; to put thy Spirit within them, and cause them to walk in thy statutes; to perform the good work in them until the day of Christ; to put thy fear in their hearts, that they may not depart from thee; to preserve them unto thy heavenly kingdom, and give unto them eternal life. O exceeding great and precious promises! Let us lay up in our hearts thy kind words of promise, O our Father, as the richest treasure; and despise all the pleasures of this world in comparison of Thyself, thy Son, thy Spirit, thy love, thy grace and glory.

But, O Lord, are any before thee strangers to the inestimable value of these precious promises, alienated from the life of God, and going astray like lost sheep? O bring them back unto thee, the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. Thy cords of love can draw them, or thy terrors can drive them into thy fold. Turn them, O Lord, and they shall be turned. We would plead at the footstool of thy grace for all those who are near and dear to us; may *they be* joined with us in the bonds of thine *everlasting* covenant, through Jesus Christ *our Lord.* Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

Ye that pass by, behold the Man,
  The man of grief condemn'd for you:
The Lamb of God for sinners slain,
  Weeping to Calvary pursue.

See there, his temples crown'd with thorns;
  His bleeding hands extended wide;
His streaming feet transfix'd and torn;
  The fountain gushing from his side.

The earth could to her centre quake,
  Convuls'd while her Deliv'rer died;
O may our inmost nature shake,
  And bow with Jesus crucified.

The rocks could feel thy pow'rful death,
  And tremble and asunder part:
O rend with thy expiring breath
  The harder marble of our heart.

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

O most gracious God, enable us to desire
ıee as our chiefest good; and to come to
ɜe as our merciful Father in the Son of

thy love. In his great name and prevailing mediation alone it is, that we, who have multiplied our offences against thee, are encouraged still to present our persons and our prayers before thee. We dare not appear in the presence of thy glorious majesty in our own names, or trusting in our own righteousness. Our guilt is so great, and our iniquities so grievous, that we have just cause to be ashamed to come before thy throne, and to tremble for fear of thy judgments.

We would therefore flee for refuge to the atoning sacrifice and meritorious righteousness of Jesus Christ our Lord, whom thou delightest to honour in sparing, accepting, and saving contrite and returning sinners. For his sake we beseech thee to pardon all the transgressions for which our hearts condemn us, and those of which thou, that art greater than our hearts, knowest us to be guilty; and seal to us a full pardon through faith in his most precious blood.

May we no longer live to ourselves, following our own corrupt wills, and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. *O put an* end to all our presumptuous con*duct to*wards thy heavenly all-seeing Ma*jesty;* and create in us new and clean,

penitent and contrite hearts, that we may tremble at thy word and presence, and hate and abandon all our foolish and hurtful lusts.

Command thy blessing and thy saving grace to descend and rest upon our souls. Cause us to know the joyful sound of thy gospel, not only by the hearing of the ear, but by heavenly experience. O take possession of our hearts, and by the power of thy Spirit draw up our affections to thy blessed self. Grant us union and communion with thee. O vouchsafe unto us such a sight and sense of sin, and of our lost estate by nature, as may render Christ and his righteousness inestimably precious to us; and give us such evidences of our justification through him as may enlarge our hearts with joy, fill our lips with praise, and influence us to live unto him that died for us and rose again.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to accept our evening tribute of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies of the past day; and for thy unwearied goodness which has followed us throughout the week, and during the whole course of our lives. Graciously continue to abound towards us in loving-kindness and tender mercies, forgiving our in-

numerable sins, and supplying our every want.

Take charge of us this night. Hide us in thy pavilion, and compass us about with songs of deliverance. If sleepless hours are appointed us, may our hearts be occupied in thy statutes. And at length bring us to the heavenly city where there is no night, but the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Prepare us, O Lord, for thy approaching sabbath; and enable us to improve it to thy glory and our own benefit. Suffer us not to waste its sacred hours: but may we rise to pray to and to praise thee. May we awake with a devout sense of thy great goodness. And as our blessed Redeemer on that day rose from the dead, so may we also rise in holy desires to the place of his heavenly abode, and join with thy servants above in shewing forth the glory of thy name. Heavenly Father, tune our hearts to sing thy praise.

And now, O God of our salvation, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one eternal Jehovah, to thee be equal and everlasting *glory* ascribed. Amen.

FIFTH WEEK.

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

WATER OF LIFE.

"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst "again: but whosoever drinketh of the water "that I shall give him shall never thirst."—John iv. 13, 14.

Condescending and compassionate Redeemer, who could forget his own hunger and his own thirst, that he might lead guilty sinners to the water of life! O gracious gift of God to the children of men! Lord, evermore give us this living water. O pour out upon us the influences of thy renewing Spirit to take away our thirst for worldly good. Never let us seek for water in broken cisterns that cannot hold it: again and again shall we thirst, and again and again shall we be disappointed, while *we go thither to* draw. Lord, give us this *living water;*—this well of heavenly con-

solation and joy, that will never fail; which will spring up amidst the thirsty deserts, the cares and sorrows, the vanity and disappointment that sin has introduced;—that blessed fountain which divine grace has opened to cleanse, purify, enliven, and rejoice the heart. And, oh! let our hearts feel, let our lives shew its heavenly influence, its renewing efficacy, till we grow nearer and nearer to Thee, who art the fountain of life, and in whose presence is fulness of joy. There alone can be satisfied the thirst of an immortal soul. Blessed Jesus! hast thou opened this spring in our hearts? O never let it fail. Let it spring up in our souls to the glory and praise of God. Let it be in us a well of water springing up unto everlasting life; cheering and refreshing us till we reach the bliss of heaven, where the streams of Eden will flow again. There they who drink of them shall forget their earthly poverty, and remember the miseries of the world no more. Some drops from this celestial spring are sufficient to make us for a time forget our sorrows, even while we are in the midst of them. What then may we not expect from those rivers of pleasure which are at thy right hand, O Lord, for evermore?

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Let every mortal ear attend,
  And every heart rejoice;
The Trumpet of the Gospel sounds
  With an inviting voice.

Ho! all ye hungry, starving souls,
  That feed upon the wind,
And vainly strive with earthly toys
  To fill an empty mind.

Eternal Wisdom has prepar'd
  A soul-reviving feast;
And bids your longing appetites
  The rich provision taste.

Ho! ye that pant for living streams,
  And pine away and die;
Here you may quench your raging thirst,
  With springs that never dry.

Rivers of love and mercy here,
  In a rich ocean join:
Salvation in abundance flows,
  Like floods of milk and wine.

Dear Lord! the treasures of thy love
  Are everlasting mines,
Deep as our helpless mis'ries are,
  *And bou*ndless as our sins.

The happy gates of Gospel Grace
Stand open night and day;
Lord, we are come to seek supplies,
And drive our wants away.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

O Lord our God, who art most glorious in thyself, and most gracious in thy ever blessed Son, we desire more especially on this thine own day to bless and praise thy holy name for all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus; for all the means of grace afforded us here, and the hope of glory hereafter.

Mercifully vouchsafe to meet us this day with thy heavenly grace both in our private and public attendance on thee. O grant us the assistance of thy holy Spirit, and enable us to engage with the most serious attention and fervent affection in every part of thy divine service. May we have the liveliest sense of thy glorious perfection when we *praise* thee; and the most delightful remembrance of thy mercies when we *give thee thanks*. May our prayers be presented before thee with hungering and

hirsting after the influences of thy grace. May we *hear thy word* with the most ardent lesire to know and be conformed to thy will. O let us sit at thy feet and receive hy law, even the instructions of life, from hy lips. May we receive the oracles of God in the power and demonstration of the Spirit.

Let *thy blessing* attend thy word and ordinances, that we may increase in knowledge and wisdom, in meekness and humility, in faith and charity, and in a sincere and universal obedience to all thy commands. Let the law of the spirit of life, which is in Christ Jesus, deliver every one of us from the law of sin and death; give us, we pray thee, repentance unto life never to be repented of: and let the good things which accompany salvation be multiplied unto us exceedingly, through the knowledge of our incarnate Lord.

Subdue every corrupt and inordinate affection; accomplish in our souls the work of faith with power; sanctify us throughout; fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy will; and keep us by thy mighty power unto everlasting salvation.

And as, O Lord, thou hast commanded *us to make* prayer and supplication for

others as well as for ourselves, we beseech thee to extend thy grace and mercy to all mankind. O send thy enlightening grace to those that are in darkness, and thy converting grace to those that are in sin. Raise up and send forth into thy harvest many faithful, able, and laborious ministers; and grant an abundant increase to the seed sown. Let all Christians walk worthy of their high calling in Christ Jesus, and live up to the laws and privileges of the holy religion they profess. Mercifully relieve the poor and afflicted; sanctify all their sorrows and distresses; and in thy own due time send them a happy deliverance out of all their troubles.

Those who are near and dear to us are, O Lord, known unto thee, with all their wants and desires: we beseech thee to relieve and bless them according to their various necessities. May we all be united in the bonds of redeeming love to Christ Jesus our Lord, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. May we be of that happy number of whom Jesus says, "My brethren are these, which *hear the* word of God, and *do* it." May we all *know* thee and love thee, from the greatest *unto* the least: may we fear thee, and

ıink upon thy name; and speak often of ıee one to another. And oh! may we l be thine in that day when thou shalt ake up thy jewels; when thou shalt re-ırn and discern between the righteous and ıe wicked, between him that serveth God, ıd him that serveth him not. And at ngth may we all meet around thy throne, ıd unite in praising, loving, and enjoying ather, Son, and Holy Ghost for ever and ver. Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Blest Jesus, source of grace divine,
What soul-refreshing streams are thine!
O bring these healing waters nigh;
Or we must faint, and fall, and die.

No traveller through desert lands,
'Midst scorching suns and burning sands,
More eager longs for cooling rain,
Or pants the living spring to gain.

Our longing souls aloud would sing,
Spring up, celestial fountain, spring;
To a redundant river flow,
And cheer this thirsty land below.

May these blest waters near my side
Through all the desert gently glide;
Then in Emanuel's land above
Spread to a sea of joy and love.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Eternal God, thou art the author and giver of every good and perfect gift, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and in and through him, the God of all mercy, grace, and consolation. What grace and mercy hast thou bestowed on us sinful dust and ashes! Who and what are we, that the Lord of Hosts should condescend to draw us nigh unto himself! that thou shouldest permit us to find a place in thy house, and number us amongst thy worshippers! How great is our privilege in being allowed to hear and read thy word, to unite with thy people in prayer and praise, and in having the unsearchable riches of Christ opened to our impoverished souls!

But, O Lord, we lament that we have *been so* unworthy of thy goodness towards *us; so* vain and thoughtless, so dull and

lifeless, so wandering and distracted. How little of thy word has been treasured up in our hearts! How little have we delighted in the truths of Christ; or felt the power of his grace and love; or perceived the evil of sin and the beauty of holiness! Forgive, we beseech thee, the iniquities of our holy things; and sprinkle our persons and services with the all-atoning blood of Jesus.

We are drawing near to the close of thy blessed day; O let not the means of grace which it has afforded us be altogether lost. O that we may long retain its holy influences. May the good seed of thy word take root in our hearts, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness in our tempers, lives, and conversation. O give us more love to thyself, and to Jesus Christ the Son of thy love; and more love to our fellow-creatures for Jesu's sake. May we hate sin more than ever; be more watchful against every temptation of Satan and the world, and more resolute in mortifying every corruption of our hearts. Let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy strength be made perfect in our weakness.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast not utterly forsaken thine own ordinances. We praise thee for any breathings

of soul towards thee, for any holy exercises of faith and love, of submission and obedience, of repentance and self-dedication; for any delight we have experienced in thy worship and service, both in the solemn assembly and in devout retirement. O carry on in us thy good work, till at length it be finished in heavenly joy and praise in thy immediate presence.

Let the Saviour become increasingly precious to us all for that great love wherewith he loved us, and the inestimable benefits he has by his blood-shedding obtained for us. May his name be known, and his salvation rejoiced in throughout the whole earth.

May all who are dear to us partake of this great salvation. O thou Shepherd and Bishop of souls, bring back to thyself those who are still as sheep going astray. Teach transgressors thy ways, and let sinners be converted unto thee.

We bless thee, O Lord, that thy tabernacle is still amongst us; and that there still remains the keeping of a sabbath to the people of God. O may thy day be more devoutly hallowed, and thy sanctuary increasingly reverenced. Hasten, we humbly beseech thee, the fulfilment of thy gracious

promise, that "all the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee." Hear, O Lord, these our supplications and intercessions for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

"Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and 'doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, 'which built his house upon a rock: and the 'rain descended, and the floods came, and the 'winds blew, and beat upon that house: and 'it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 'And every one that heareth these sayings of 'mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto 'a foolish man, which built his house upon the 'sand: and the rain descended, and the floods 'came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that 'house: and it fell: and great was the fall of 'it."—Matt. vii. 24—27.

We have every one of us a house to build, and *that house* is our hope for heaven. Our great happiness is to secure a title to the happiness of heaven; that when our earthly

house of this tabernacle is dissolved, we may be received into everlasting habitations. There is a rock provided for us to build upon, and that rock is Christ. The Church is built upon this rock; and so is every believer. We must ground our hope for heaven upon the fulness of his sacrifice and merits for the pardon of sin and eternal life, on the power of his Spirit for the sanctification of our nature, and on the prevalency of his intercession for our acceptance at a throne of grace. He is sufficient for all our necessities; he is a Saviour to the uttermost. He is strong and immoveable as a rock. We may venture our all upon him, and shall never be ashamed of our hope. Happy souls who, by hearing and doing the sayings of Christ, build their hopes upon this rock; who, having sincerely received him as their Prince and Saviour, make it their constant care to conform to all the rules of his holy religion; who depend entirely upon him for assistance from God, and acceptance with him; and count every thing but loss that they may win Christ, and be found in him.

To build upon a rock requires care and *pains.* They are the wise builders who lay *a firm foundation,* and begin to build so as

that they may be able to finish. Every thing besides Christ is sand. Some build their hopes upon their external profession, the privileges they enjoy, and the services they perform. They are called Christians, have been baptized, go to the sanctuary of God, hear the words of Christ, never omit their prayers, and do harm to no one. This is the light of their own fire, in which they walk; on which with much assurance they venture: but it is all sand, too weak to bear such a fabric as a hope of heaven. There is a storm coming that will try every man's work, and will discover the foundation on which it rests; the rain, and floods, and wind, will beat vehemently upon the house. The trial is sometimes in this world. When tribulation and persecution arise because of the word, then it is seen who only hear the word, and who both hear and practise it. Then, when we have occasion to use our hopes, it will be tried whether they were right and well grounded or not. When death and judgment come, then the storm comes; and it will undoubtedly come, how calm soever things may be with us now.

The hopes that foolish builders ground *upon any thing* but Christ will certainly *fail them in a* stormy day. They will yield

them no true comfort in trouble, in the hour of death, and the day of judgment. They will be no fence against temptation or apostasy in a time of persecution. Whereever is the hope of a hypocrite, his house shall not stand when God taketh away his soul. The house we are told fell *in the storm*, when the builder had most need of it, and expected it should be a shelter to him. It fell when it was too late to build another. When a wicked man dies, his expectation perishes. It fell, and great was the fall of it; great was the disappointment, and great the loss and shame.

But the hopes that are built upon Christ, the Rock of Ages, will not disappoint the builder. They will stand when the storm comes; they will be his preservation both from desertion, and from prevailing disquiet. His profession will not wither, his comforts will not fail; they will be his strength and song, as an anchor of the soul sure and steadfast. And when he comes to the last encounter, those hopes will ward off the terrors of death and the grave, and carry him cheerfully through the dark valley. *They will* be approved by the Judge, will *stand the* test of the great day, and be *crowned* with endless glory.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

Let worldly builders raise their house
  Upon the moving sands:
Firm on the Rock of Ages fix'd
  The heavenly building stands.

That rock is Christ: no other name
  Avails before the throne;
His bleeding love shall still remain
  Sufficient and alone.

'Twas grace first laid the living stone,
  And there engrav'd its law:
Grace shall the glorious Top-stone crown
  With shouts of heavenly joy.

A house eternal in the heavens
  Not earth or hell can move:
And grace, *free grace*, alone shall crown
  The purchase of his love.

Firm as the everlasting hills
  That promise shall remain,
"Where *I* enjoy my Father's love
  You shall enjoy the same."

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

O Thou that searchest the heart and triest
reins of the children of men, before thee

we desire to bow with the greatest reverence and humility, beseeching thee, O God, to search us and know our hearts, to try us and know our thoughts; to see if there be any way of wickedness in us, and to lead us in the way everlasting.

We acknowledge with shame before thee, that we are compassed about with infirmities, and subject to numberless and fatal errors and dangers. O Father of lights, send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead us, let them bring us to thy holy habitation. We adore thee, that thou hast condescended to shew to us thy wandering and guilty creatures the path of peace, of safety, and of life.

We bless thee that thou hast laid in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone; assuring us, that he who believeth in him shall not be ashamed. Preserve us from building our hopes of pardon, peace, and happiness on any other basis than that which thou hast appointed. May we look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only foundation, and on him may we rest. May we deeply feel, that if we seek to lay any other foundation, our building will prove to be only a refuge of lies; no covert from the storm, no shelter from the tempest. Unde

the guidance of thy Holy Spirit may we repose on the Rock of Ages; that so the structure of our hopes and expectations may never be destroyed. And thus coming unto Jesus Christ the living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious, may we as lively stones be built up a spiritual house to the praise of the glory of thy grace.

O give us such a knowledge of the terrors of the Lord, and such a lively conviction that we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, to receive according to the things done in the body, that we may constantly labour to be accepted of him, and to make our calling and election sure.

Possess us, we beseech thee, with an abiding and influential sense of the future and eternal blessedness of thy believing people; and give us a well-grounded hope, that when our earthly tabernacle shall be dissolved we shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Vouchsafe unto us the earnest of the Spirit; and so sanctify and spiritualize our affections, that we may long for mortality to be swallowed up of life, to *be absent from* the body and present with *the Lord.*

O Lord, look down upon all who have never heard the words of Jesus, or who hearing do them not. May his voice be heard in every land and in every house: and grant that those who hear may not refuse him that speaketh, but diligently attend to the things which belong unto their everlasting peace, ere they shall be for ever hidden from their eyes.

Especially be pleased to bless all our relations and friends; make them and us wise unto salvation: that so, after having passed through this present vain and evil world, we may all meet together around thy throne to praise and love thee for evermore. We earnestly implore thee, O Lord, to accept our feeble praises, and to answer our imperfect petitions not according to our worthiness, but according to thy power and grace, which is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour; to whom with thee O Father and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Monday Evening.

Behold the sure foundation stone
  Which God in Zion lays,
To build our heavenly hopes upon,
  And his eternal praise!

Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
  And saints adore the name;
They trust their whole salvation here:
  Nor shall they suffer shame.

The foolish builder, scribe, and priest
  Reject it with disdain:
Yet on this rock the church shall rest;
  And envy rage in vain.

What though the gates of hell withstood,
  Yet must this building rise:
'Tis thine own work, Almighty God,
  And wondrous in our eyes.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

Infinitely great and gracious God, thou hast promised to draw nigh unto all those who call upon thy name. Help us by the influence of thy Holy Spirit to approach thee in sincerity, believing that thou search-

est the heart, and requirest those who worship thee to do so in spirit and in truth.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; and we, O Lord, are conscious that even our best services are defiled. Yet we venture near to thy mercy-seat; for, glory be to thy name, thou hast found out a way in which thou canst be just and yet the justifier of all who come unto thee through thy beloved Son. O lead us in this new and living way; help us to plead the merits, and trust in the mercy of our great Advocate. We thank thee that the Saviour ever lives to make intercession for us. May we love him who hath loved us, and given himself for us; may his blood speak peace to our souls. And though we have destroyed ourselves, yet in him may our help be found.

May we admire the wonders of redeeming love; and seeing we were bought with a price, may we ever remember whose we are, and whom we ought to serve. We know that we are bound to love him and live to him, who gave himself a ransom for us: but we feel by sad experience the *deceitfulness* of our own hearts; and therefore, blessed Lord, we come to thee, the *strong*, for strength. O draw us and we

will run after thee; put thy fear into our hearts, and then we shall not depart from thee.

What thou art in thyself, O Lord, ever be to us: may thy *wisdom* be ours to counsel and direct us; thy *power* ours to protect and support us; thy *justice* ours to justify us; thy *holiness* ours to sanctify us; thy *goodness* ours to love and supply us. May we depend on thy *truth* as the security of all thy precious promises; and in the world to come may we find a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

O Lord, graciously bestow upon us all the blessings which we need for life and godliness; especially give us hearts deeply sensible of all thy goodness. Let us lie down and rest this night under thy guardian care and protection; grant us quiet and refreshing sleep; and may we arise in the morning with fresh vigour for the duties of life, and with hearts unreservedly devoted to thy service.

Hear us while we supplicate thy favour to rest on our beloved friends and relatives: may we all be found in covenant relation with thee. May thy cause prosper in the *earth, and thy* name be known among all *nations.* We entreat thee to forgive our

sins, to receive our prayers, and to accept and bless us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Tuesday Morning.

"Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no "guile!"—John i. 47.

Such may our character be in the sight of God and man. Let us be able to appeal to God as the witness of our integrity; "Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee." The royal law is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy might."

Let there be truth in all we do; and as much as in us lies nothing but truth. Let us love in truth, let us speak the truth in love: let our hearts be in every word; and in every step of our lives let the heart do all. Let the heart pray, let the heart hear, let the heart bestow, and lend, and forgive. Let the grace of God in our hearts do all.

Heart and tongue, prayer and practice *must* mutually respond one to the other, *or all* will be lost. It is not the sweetness *of the* voice, nor the multitude of words or

eloquent expressions that pleases Jehovah; but truth in the inward parts. The reason why men are so unsuccessful in religious duties and services is, because they are not more sincere and upright in them. Were there more singleness of heart in duties, we should have surer and sweeter returns from heaven. The more sincere we are, the more will prayer be the life and support of our souls; the more shall we rejoice in God and be loved of him. He delights in those who delight in his service. Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

It is not a divided heart that will satisfy the Maker of it. Gracious souls come from prayer with hearts more disengaged from sin, more set against it. The precious communion they have with God, the sweet breathings of God into their hearts, and the secret movings of the Spirit upon their souls in prayer, arm them more against sin. How shall I do this great wickedness and sin against God? I cannot, I will not do any thing unworthy of him who hath caused all his goodness to pass before me; and hath called me to glory, honour, and immortality.

The true Israelite must also have a con-*science void of* offence towards man, as well

as sincere before God. It must be tender of every evil; not only of the greatest and most scandalous, but of the smallest sins; not only of open sins, such as come to the view of men, but of the most secret sins; the most inward and spiritual wickedness, such as needs fear no reprover but conscience. The true Christian must be tender not only of sins of commission, but also of omissions and neglects; not only of neglects, but negligences in duties—that deadness, formality, coldness, hypocrisy, and distractions, which arise from the negligent performance of our duty to God or man. It may be we cannot *wholly omit* a duty, a season of praying or hearing, without our hearts presently condemning us; but how often are we remiss and negligent in the performance, and yet feel not the reproof? It may be we take some care in the matters of *our own* souls; but what are we doing for our families, our friends and acquaintance? It may be we dare not *conform* to evil men, nor have fellowship with them in evil ways; but do we not *connive* at them? We do not render evil for evil, nor *railing* for railing; but do we return good *for evil?* Do we pity and pray for our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and labour

by all means to gain their hearts? It may be we dare not be unrighteous or unjust in our dealings; but are we not unmerciful, implacable, contentious? We dare not lie, nor swear; but are we so watchful as we should be against idle and vain talkings, unedifying and unsavoury discourse? We cannot suffer any root of malice in our hearts; but are there not many sudden and furious fits of anger breaking forth with much bitter and reproachful language? Are we not fretful and impatient, without laying it much to heart? Doth conscience check us for every evil, and make resistance against it? O that our consciences were universally tender! Our pride will not bear any thing that reflects upon our reputation; our covetousness will not bear any thing that is a hindrance to our gains; our passions scarcely bear the least cross or unpleasing word. Oh, if conscience were in every thing as tender, what Christians should we be! Let us then press on with so much earnestness after this even and consistent walk, that it may be seen that, though we have not yet attained, we are following after; though we have not reached to, we are *yet reaching* towards it. Let us be *gentle, flexible*, easy to be entreated; so fear-

ful to offend, so ready to please all men in all things which are not against conscience its peace and purity; that we may convince them, that, in those things wherein we are fixed, and do not yield, it is because we *cannot*, not because we *will not*. And may this at last be our rejoicing, the testimony of our conscience, that with simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world. Amen.

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Awake, my soul! the sun has risen;
With the new day prepare for heaven:
Put off thy sins in thought and deed,
And shine an *Israelite indeed.*

Let all thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noon-day clear:
Think how th' all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Redeem thy mispent moments past,
And live this day as if thy last;
Thy talents to improve take care;
For the great day thyself prepare.

Great God, control, suggest, this day,
All I design, or do, or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
To seek thy glory may unite.

Wake and lift up thyself, my heart,
With angel hosts to bear thy part;
Who day and night unwearied sing,
Glory to the eternal King.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

Almighty and most merciful Father, hose ears are ever open to the souls that ek thee in sincerity and truth, dispose ever to direct our prayer unto thee and ok up. May we daily wait at thy otstool for thy blessing; for thou art a od full of compassion, and gracious, long- ffering, and plenteous in goodness and uth.

In thee we live, and move, and have our ing; it is thou alone who holdest our

souls in life. It is thou, our heavenly Father, who hast protected us during the past night, and hast brought us to meet together in health and peace this morning, the living monuments of thy sparing mercy and providential care.

But thou hast done for us greater things than these, which call for our gratitude and love. Thou hast sent thy only Son into the world to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. Bless the Lord, O our souls: and all that is within us bless his holy name! We would bless thee at all times; thy praise shall continually be in our mouths; we will magnify thee with the voice of thanksgiving, and exalt thy name together.

But thou requirest us to glorify thee not only with our lips, but in our lives. Dispose us this day to serve thee faithfully, in simplicity and godly sincerity. Grant that every morning may find our hearts more enlarged to run the way of thy commandments. Make it the earnest desire of our souls, and the great business of our lives, to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. And do thou, O almighty God, continually work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure.

Let our conversation be daily in heaven, and our whole behaviour such as becometh holiness. May we be jealous over our hearts, and ever keep them with all diligence, remembering that out of them are the issues of life. Enable us, O God, to set a watch before our mouths, and to keep the door of our lips; may no communication proceed out of them, but that which is good for the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Save us from that fear of man which bringeth a snare: while we are willing to become all things to all men for their spiritual good, keep us from making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. And grant, O Lord, that we may shew ourselves partakers of thy grace, by holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. We look up unto thee, thou compassionate High Priest, who alone art able to keep us from falling, and who art touched with the feeling of our infirmities, beseeching thee to carry on in our souls from day to day the work of faith with power.

Fill us with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. *Strengthen us* with all might according to *thy glorious* power, that we may walk

worthy of thee unto all pleasing; being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Thus, heavenly Father, help us to glorify thee this day in our bodies and our spirits which are thine: put thy fear within us, that we may not depart from thee: make us to go in the path of thy commandments, for therein is our desire. Give us understanding, that we may keep thy law; yea, that we may keep it with our whole heart.

Give us wisdom and grace to honour thee by uprightness and fidelity in all our ways. Preserve us from all unchristian tempers and pursuits: may we exercise ourselves to have always a conscience void of offence, both towards thee and towards men, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May we be approved in thy sight as Israelites indeed, in whom is no guile; and be numbered among the *true* followers of the Lamb of God, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Amen.

HYMN

For Tuesday Evening.

Lord, plant a principle within
  Of jealous, godly fear;
A sensibility of sin,
  And grief to find it near.

Give us the first approach to feel
  Of pride and vain desire;
To watch the wand'rings of the will,
  And quench the kindling fire.

The filial awe, the feeling heart,
  The deep compunction give;
That we from thee no more may part,
  No more thy Spirit grieve.

Quick as the apple of an eye,
  O God, our conscience make;
Awake its fears when sin is nigh,
  And keep them still awake.

O may the least omission pain
  Our well-instructed soul;
And drive us to that grace again,
  Which makes the wounded whole.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

Great and glorious, gracious and merci-
God and Father in Christ, look down

from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness; and take notice of us thy weak and sinful creatures worshipping this evening at thy footstool. Thou madest the heavens and the earth, and sustainest all the works of thy hand.

Our most secret thoughts are open to thine eye; our hearts have too often forgotten thee; the best of our services are too imperfect to deserve thy love; nor can all our obedience merit the pardon of one of our past transgressions. O let our guilt be washed away through faith in the blood of thy dear Son; and in him accept us worthless sinners. Spare us according to the multitude of thy tender mercies; and let us not go down to the grave in an unpardoned and unholy state. Lengthen out our days, that we may secure our best interest and our eternal hope. Take out of our hearts every evil thought, and subdue every sinful inclination. Let thy blessed Spirit renew our souls, and make us holy in heart, in conversation, and in life. Give us strength to withstand the assaults of temptation, that we may not offend our God, crucify afresh our Saviour, and make continual work for bitter repentance.

Choose our inheritance for us, O Lord, and make us content with the disposals of thy Providence in this present life. Let not our hearts idolize any thing on earth; but fix our affections on things above, where Christ is at thy right hand. Bear us up under all the afflictions of life with faith and patience. Make us steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, trusting thy gracious promise, that we shall reap a joyful harvest if we faint not.

Search, O God, and try our hearts; discover to us wherein we have wandered from thee: give us true repentance, and lead us in the paths of holiness and peace. Fit us for death and judgment; and train us up daily by thy word and ordinances, by thy Spirit and grace, for the holiness and blessedness of thy kingdom in glory.

Protect us by thy providence, and guard us by thy grace through this night; suffer not any evil to injure or disquiet us. Whether we wake or sleep, live or die, let us be thine for ever.

We praise thee, O our God, for ease and health, and all the comforts of this day and of our whole lives. But above all, we bless thee for Jesus Christ, who came to pur-

chase salvation for us by his most precious blood. We bless thee that we have been brought up under the sound of thy gospel; and have been early acquainted with thy Holy Word, wherein is all our hope of everlasting life and glory. We beseech thee to accept our unworthy prayers and praises through the rich incense of our Redeemer's intercession, who is most worthy; in whose name and words we would further call upon thee, as "Our Father which art in heaven," &c.

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

"The God of all grace . . . . make you perfect."—1 Peter, v. 10.

It is an excellent life, and it is the proper life of a Christian, to be daily out-stripping himself; to be spiritually wiser, holier, more heavenly minded to-day than yesterday, and to-morrow (if it be added to his life) than to-day: every day loving the *world less* and Christ more than the former; *and gaining* some further victory over his *secret* corruptions; having his passions more

subdued and mortified, his desires in all temporal things more cool and indifferent, and in spiritual things more ardent: that miserable lightness of spirit cured, and his heart rendered more solid and fixed upon God, aspiring to more near communion with him; labouring that particular graces may be made more lively and strong, by often exercising and stirring them up; his faith more confirmed, love more inflamed, composed meekness producing more deep humility. Oh this were a worthy ambition indeed! You would have your estates growing, and your credit growing; how much rather should you seek to have your graces growing; and not be content with any thing you have attained to.

But all our endeavours and diligence in this will be in vain, unless we look for our perfecting and establishing from that *right hand,* without which we do nothing; *the God of all grace make you perfect.* The humble believer sees himself beset with enemies without, and buckled to a treacherous heart within, that will betray him to them; and he dare no more trust himself to himself than to his most professed enemies. He finds that when he thinks to go forward he is driven backward, and sin gets

hold of him oftentimes when he thought to have smitten it. He finds that sad inconstancy of his heart in spiritual things, the vanishing of his purposes and breaking off of his thoughts, that they usually die ere they be brought forth. So that when he hath thought, "I will pray more reverently, and set myself to behold God when I speak to him, and watch more over my heart, that it fly not out and leave me;" possibly the first time he sets to it, thinking to be master of his intention, he finds himself more scattered, and disordered, and dead, than at any time before. When he hath conceived thoughts of humility and self-abasement, and thinks, "Now I am down, and laid low within myself, to rise and look big no more;" yet some vain fancy creeps in soon, and encourages him, and raises him up to his old estate. So that in this plight had he not higher strength to look to, he would sit down and give over all, as utterly hopeless of ever attaining to his journey's end.

But when he considers whose work it is within him, even these small beginnings of desires, he is encouraged by the greatness *of the work, not to despise the day of small things;* and knowing, that it is not by any *power nor might, but* by his Spirit, that it

shall be accomplished; he lays hold on that word, Job viii. 7, "*Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.*" The well instructed Christian *looks to Jesus*, looks off from all opposition and difficulties; looks above them *to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith*. Though thou art weak, he is strong, and is *he that strengthens thee and renews thy strength;* when it seems to be gone and quite spent, he makes it fresh and greater than ever before. A weak believer and his strong Saviour will be too hard for all that can rise against them. If we make him all our strength, then shall we indeed find his fulness and all-sufficiency, and *be more than conquerors through him who hath loved us.*

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

I ask'd the Lord that I might grow
  In faith, and love, and ev'ry grace;
Might more of his salvation know,
  And seek more earnestly his face.

'Twas he who taught me thus to pray;
And he, I trust, has answer'd prayer;
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hop'd that in some favour'd hour
At once he'd answer my request;
And by his love's constraining power
Subdue my sins and give me rest.

Instead of this, he made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Yea more, with his own hand he seem'd
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Cross'd all the fair designs I schem'd,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this? I trembling cried;
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"'Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith.

"These inward trials I employ,
"From self and pride to set thee free:
"And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
"That thou may'st seek thy all in me."

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

O thou uncreated Majesty, the source of light and fountain of love, whom to know is life eternal, we desire to bless thee for endowing us with various faculties of soul and body by which we may know, and love, and praise, and serve thee. May our minds delight to know thee, our hearts to love thee, our tongues to praise thee, and all our powers be engaged in thy service. We feel that no earthly or created object can be a full and satisfying portion for our souls. Too far have we trusted, too long have we followed the creature: henceforth may we resign ourselves to thee, our Creator, and submit all we have and are to thee as our rightful Sovereign. We would thankfully acknowledge thy providential goodness in all the benefits and comforts of our lives. In thee alone may we seek our true felicity; in knowing, loving, and delighting in thee. May we feel more and more that our souls cannot be in health and peace till we know thee better, and love thee more.

Since thou hast graciously invited us, *saying,* "My son, give me thy heart;"

enable us to devote our hearts to thee, an
to offer them on the holy altar erected i
the mediation of thy well-beloved Son. (
that we could present unto thee hearts mor
feeling, more ardent, more sincere. D
thou, who alone canst kindle the sacrific
send down thy heavenly fire into our soul
Let it consume all earthly dross, and con
secrate to thy service whatever good tho
hast implanted. May our hearts be washe
in the precious and all-atoning blood
Jesus. Let us ever look towards thee, an
follow after thee; and no longer be conter
with any inferior good. Though, alas! w
do not love thee as we wish; yet blesse
be thy name, if, from our hearts, we desir
to love thee more, and seek no greater hap
piness than in perfectly and endlessly lovin
thee.

And since, O Lord, we never could hav
been brought back to thyself but by
teacher sent from God; glory be to th
name for giving thine only Son to be th
Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Abov
all would we adore thine undeserved merc
if thou hast by thy Holy Spirit taught u
that there is no way so suitable to our lo
condition, no remedy so adapted to ou
misery, as that which thou hast provid

thy offered covenant of grace. O may
see that this doctrine is divine and hea-
ıly; and may it powerfully plead thy
ıse, purifying the soul from self and
ıity, and leading it to thee our God.
How unspeakable thy mercy if thou hast
en us the witness in ourselves: not an
ounded persuasion, but that renewed
ure, those heavenly affections and de-
s, which can come from none but thee.
th thee therefore, O our Redeemer, would
now renew our covenant. On thee would
cast the souls which thou hast redeemed,
to be advanced to the wealth, and ho-
ır, and pleasures of this world; but to
delivered from them: to be healed of
; to be washed in thy blood, and quick-
ed by thy Spirit; to be conducted in the
ys of holiness; and at last presented
tified and spotless in the presence of thy
ther, and put in possession of the glory
ich thou hast purchased and promised.
nen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

Father, whate'er of earthly bliss
Thy sov'reign will denies,
Accepted at thy throne of grace
Let this petition rise.

Give me a calm, a thankful heart,
From every murmur free;
The blessings of thy grace impart,
And let me live to thee.

Let the sweet hope that thou art mine,
My life and death attend;
Thy presence through my journey shin
And crown my journey's end.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

O God, who art ever present, and ki
est all things: thy majesty and condes
sion, thy justice and compassion, are a
infinite and adorable. Thine is the k
dom, O Lord, and thou art exalted over
Be thou our strong tower, and help u
take refuge under the shadow of thy wi

We desire this evening to humble
selves in thy presence for the sins of
past day and of our whole lives. Give
we entreat thee, such a knowledge of
holy law, that we may be deeply sens
of our exceeding sinfulness; and so ju
ourselves that we may not be conder
at thy awful tribunal.

Help us, O gracious Lord, to believe thy ›spel with living faith, and continually to me unto thee as the fountain of life and icity, through the righteousness and re-mption of our great High Priest, who er liveth to make intercession for us. ive us, we beseech thee, that humble con-ence in thy pardoning mercy; and that ve, gratitude, and zeal, which may lead to unreserved obedience, and make us adfast, unmoveable, always abounding the work of the Lord.

We commend to thy care and blessing, Lord, all that are dear unto us. Teach to use all proper means of doing them od, and of convincing such as still neglect y great salvation.

Bless thy whole Church. Endue thy nisters with wisdom, clothe them with hteousness, and make them valiant and alous for thy truth. Enable thy people rejoice in thee. Let thy grace be suffi-nt for them in all their trials and tempt-ons: give them victory in every conflict; d prosper all their endeavours to glorify r name and do good to mankind.

Send forth thy light and thy truth unto *nations.* Disperse the dark clouds of *atry,* impiety, superstition, and infide-

lity; and set up thy kingdom of peace and righteousness throughout the earth.

Continue, we beseech thee, to bless our own land with peace, liberty, and the light of thy Gospel: and may effectual measures be taken to stop the progress of wickedness, that so iniquity may not be our ruin.

Bless our Queen, and those in authority; and direct their counsels for the preservation of public tranquillity, the establishment of peace among the nations, the reformation of manners, the revival of true religion, and the success of thy Gospel throughout the world.

Visit with thy compassion and saving grace all the sons and daughters of affliction, and teach them to profit by all thy chastisements. And may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all glory and praise for ever and *ever.* Amen.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

THE CHRISTIAN PILGRIM.

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you, as strangers "and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which "war against the soul."—1 Pet. ii. 11.

Remember, O my soul, this is not thy home: thou art upon a journey to thy Father's house, where thou must abide for ever. Even on thy journey home he permits thee freely to converse with him. O then see him that is invisible; hearken to him when he speaketh; obey his voice; observe his way; speak to him boldly though humbly and reverently as his child, about thy greatest concern. Tell him all thy sorrows, and confess all thy folly and unkindness: entreat his forgiveness, and plead the merits of thy Saviour. Converse with him about the way in which thou shouldest go. Desire his grace; give up thyself to his conduct and care. Weep over the history of thy ingratitude. Tell him how thou art most offended with what has most displeased him: that thou art angry with thy disobedient, unthankful heart: that thou art weary of that heart

that loveth him no more; and that it shall never please thee till it loves him better, and is more desirous to please him. Tell him of thy enemies, and beg the protection of his love: tell him of thy frailties, infirmities, and passions; and beg not only his tender forbearance, but his help. Tell him that without him thou canst do nothing; and beg the grace that is sufficient for thee; that through him that strengtheneth thee, thou mayest do all things. When thou fallest despair not; but beg his helping hand to raise thee. Speak to him especially of everlasting things; and thank him for his promises, and for thy hopes; for what thou shalt be, and do, and enjoy among his holy ones for ever. Express thy joy in the hope that thou shalt see his glory, and love him and praise him better than thou canst now desire. Begin those praises; and as thou walkest with him take pleasure in the mention of his perfections: be thankful to him and speak good of his name. Solace thyself in remembering what a God, what a defence and portion all believers have; and in considering where he is now *conducting* thee, what he will do with thee, *and what* use he will make of thee for ever. *Speak* with rejoicing of the glory of his

works, and the righteousness of his judgments, and the holiness and evenness of his ways. Sing forth his praises with a joyful heart, and dismiss all slavish fears, all malicious suggestions and doubts, and all nipping griefs that would interrupt the harmony of thy soul. Thy heavenly Father beholds with approbation thy moans and tears; but how much more does he love thy thanks and praises! Or if indeed it is winter time with thee, a stormy day, and he seems to chide or hide his face, because thou hast offended him; let the cloud that is gathered by thy folly come down in tears, and tell him thou hast sinned against heaven and before him, and art no more worthy to be called his son. However, yet fly not from him; but supplicate his pardon, and to be admitted to his service: and thou wilt find forgiveness when thou fearest condemnation. Only return and keep closer to him for the time to come. If the breach through thy neglect has gone so far that thou seemest to have lost thy God, and to be cast off and forsaken; yet despair not; for he doth but hide his face till thou repent. Lift up thy voice and cry, in spite of unbelief, my Father, *my Saviour, my* God! and thou shalt at last *hear him* address thee as his child. Cry

out, O why hast thou forsaken
shall I do here without thee?
not here in this waste howlin
let me not be a prey to my sin
my foes and thine. O beg of
wanderings and childish folly
taken as acts of enmity, or
they may be pardoned: and th
correct thee, he will return an
thee. Or if thou hast not word
before him, at least smite upo
and though thou art ashame
look up towards heaven, yet l
say, "O Lord, be merciful to
and he will accept thee, and
such a supplication amongst
which he cannot deny. He
thee, and shew thee where it
didst go astray, by losing thy
ing from him. Seek him an
find him; for he never faileth
those that wait upon him.

HYMN

For Thursday Morni

"We've no abiding city here
This may distress the wor
But should not cost the sai
Who hopes a better rest

"We've no abiding city here:"
  Sad truth, were this to be our home:
But let the thought our spirits cheer,
  "We seek a city yet to come."

"We've no abiding city here:"
  Then let us live as pilgrims do:
Let not the world our rest appear;
  But let us haste from all below.

"We've no abiding city here:"
  We seek a city out of sight:
Zion its name, the Lord is there;
  It shines with everlasting light.

Zion! Jehovah is her strength;
  Secure she smiles at all her foes:
And weary travellers at length
  Within her sacred walls repose.

O sweet abode of peace and love,
  Where pilgrims freed from toil are blest!
Had I the pinions of the dove,
  I'd fly to thee, and be at rest.

But hush, my soul, nor dare repine:
  The time my God appoints is best:
While here, to do his will be mine,
  And his to fix my time of rest.

PRAYER

For Thursday Morning.

Almighty and most merciful F
of thy never failing goodness and
protected and preserved us the
and safely brought us to the light
day; defend us, we pray thee, i
by thy mighty power; and so
with thy gracious favour, and
with thy continual help, that
works begun, continued, and end
we may ever seek thy honour a
and finally by thy mercy obtain e
life, through Jesus Christ our bl
and Saviour.

For his sake we humbly pray t
out of thy remembrance all ou
and provocations; and to work in
a godly sorrow, a sincere repenta
steadfast resolution to amend ou
cording to thy holy word. To t
pleased to assist us with the gr
holy Spirit to overcome the de
our natures, and sanctify us to th

Let our hearts and minds be
more renewed; that, being tran
the renewing of our minds, w

t is that good and acceptable, and per-
will of God; that we may be able to
w, and may delight to do thy will, O
.; and that thy law may be written in
hearts.

ive us to know Christ and his life, that
ıay be formed in our hearts; and that
ıay live in us; that the same mind may
n us which was in Christ Jesus, that we
be made conformable to his death, in
ifying the flesh with its affections and
s.

et thy grace always accompany us, and
ıle us to persevere unto the end. Make
erfect in every good work to do thy will;
ting in us that which is well pleasing in
sight through Jesus Christ our Lord.

l, as we are here but strangers and pil-
ıs, O let thy good Spirit guide and con-
: us through the wilderness of this sinful
d. Let us not be led astray by the
gerous and alluring temptations with
h it abounds: but preserve us from the
es laid by the devil and his emissaries
ıtice us to sin and wickedness, and to
ıge us into endless woe.

ay we give all diligence to make our
ng and election sure. If any of us have
rto neglected the one thing needful,

rested in a form of godliness, or in any way deceived ourselves; awaken us without delay to see first thy kingdom and righteousness, and to make all our other pursuits give place to this.

Teach us to serve thee in our several relations and different employments, doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus. May we use our possessions, and improve our time and talents, as knowing that shortly we must give an account of our stewardship. At all times and in all places may we joyfully prepare for, and anticipate the glad summons, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord." Grant us, O thou Fountain of Life, such consolations in communion with thee, as may bear us up above the temptations and troubles of this world, and fix our affections on things above.

We humbly beseech thee, O Father of mercies, graciously to look upon our beloved relatives and friends. Bring home to thy fold such as still wander in the ways of sin and folly; and communicate all seasonable help and comfort to those who know thy name and love thy salvation. And hasten *that time* when thy name shall be known *upon earth*, and thy saving health among *all nations*. We earnestly entreat ever

itual and temporal blessing for our-
es and others through our Lord Jesus
ist. Amen.

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

Children of the heavenly King,
As ye journey sweetly sing:
Sing your Saviour's worthy praise,
Glorious in his works and ways.

Ye are trav'lling home to God,
In the way the fathers trod:
They are happy now, and ye
Soon their happiness shall see.

Shout, ye ransom'd flock most blest;
Ye on Jesu's throne shall rest:
There your seat is now prepar'd,
There your kingdom and reward.

Fear not, brethren; joyful stand
On the borders of your land:
Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Bids you undismay'd go on.

Lord, submissive may we go,
Gladly leaving all below:
Only thou our leader be;
And still let us follow thee.

PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

"Give us this day our daily bread, and for-
"give us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
"us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the
"power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

O Almighty God, we desire to draw nigh unto thee with lively gratitude, as our heavenly Father, who knowest all our wants. We bless thee, that thou invitest us to cast all our care upon thee, assuring us that thou carest for us; and that thou wilt keep those in perfect peace whose minds are staid on thee, and make known their requests unto thee in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. We adore thine infinite goodness which encourages us to ask the largest blessings; and promises, that if we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things shall be added unto us." Grant us, therefore, O Lord, ever to remember that but one thing is needful; and let us not be careful and troubled *about* many things: but enable us to choose, *to seek*, and to obtain that good part which *shall* never be taken away from us.

And while we pray for the bread of life, we entreat thee also to give us food convenient for us, to supply all our necessary wants, and to grant that, having food and raiment, we may be therewith content. Prosper thou the work of our hands according to thine own infinite wisdom and goodness; and enable us to trust in thee with all our heart, not leaning to our own understanding; and preserve us from falling into those foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

And as, O heavenly Father, we pray for our daily bread, so we beseech thee for the daily forgiveness of our sins. O cleanse us from our secret faults; and keep back thy servants also from presumptuous sins, that they get not the dominion over us.

We confess with shame that we have not duly improved the talents with which we have been intrusted; that we have not rendered again according to thy benefits. We have deserved the wages of sin, and have been guilty of those things for which the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. Our debt is great; and we have nothing to pay. But, glory be to thy name, O Lord, thou hast devised a way whereby thou canst be just, and yet justify him that

believeth in Jesus. O grant that through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ thy Son we may be cleansed from all sin; and purge our conscience from dead works to serve thee the living God.

And while we pray that thou wouldest mercifully forgive us *our* sins, which are more than the hairs of our head, we beseech thee that *we* may forgive our enemies, love them that hate us, bless them that curse us, and pray for and do good to them that despitefully use us and persecute us. If we forgive not men their trespasses, we cannot expect thee to forgive us our trespasses. May all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from us, with all malice; and make us kind one to another, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, even as we trust God for Christ's sake will forgive us.

And since, O our God, we are ever in danger of being enticed and drawn away by our own hearts' lusts, we earnestly pray thee not to lead us into temptation: but to save us from the sins that most easily beset us: to deliver us from every evil; and preserve us even to the end. Let us hide thy word in our hearts that we may be kept

om the paths of the destroyer. O send
ıt thy light and thy truth: let them lead
ı: let them bring us to thy holy hill, and
thy habitation.

Heavenly Father, we humbly beseech
.ee in behalf of ourselves and all mankind,
set up thy kingdom in our hearts and
roughout the whole earth; that we may
ıllow thy name, and do thy will as it is
ıne in heaven: for thine is the kingdom,
ıd the power, and the glory, for ever and
er. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

THE NEW MAN.

"Put on the new man, which after God is
reated in righteousness and true holiness."—
h. iv. 24.

The loss of God's image upon the soul,
.s both the sinfulness and misery of man's
len state: and that resemblance which it
ars to God, is the beauty, the glory, and
ppiness of the new creation. Created
w by his own Spirit, in righteousness

and true holiness, it bears the image of that Saviour in whom it is created anew, *Christ Jesus*. To put on the Lord Jesus, comprehends the whole of the Christian's duty, all his duties towards God and man. Sin is not the Christian's element; his delight is in the law of the Lord: he loves it even where it most crosses the remains of corruption that are in him: he bends the strength of his soul to please God, and to live unto righteousness. It is not merely the study of his leisure hours: no; it is his main business, his all. The new life, like the natural one, is seated in the heart; and from thence diffuses itself through the whole man. He loves righteousness, and receiveth the truth in the love of it. The unrenewed man may do many things that appear righteous: but he lives not to righteousness; because his heart is not possessed and ruled with the love of it. The new man not only forsakes sin, but he hates it: "I hate vain thoughts." And not only some sins, but all: "I hate every false way." While he dies to sin, sin dies *in* him: the mind dies to the study of sin; the hand dies to the acting of it; the ear to the hearing of things profane and sinful; the tongue to speaking evil; and the lips

to speaking guile. This new creation adorns the soul with a sweet variety of gracious and heavenly dispositions. It is in their hearts a living source of love, joy, and peace; of long-suffering and gentleness, of goodness and faith, of meekness and temperance, and of all divine virtues; which, for this very reason, are in Holy Scripture styled the "Fruits of the Spirit." 'Tis he that breathes into their souls those amiable and heavenly dispositions, whereby alone they can on good ground be denominated meek, and humble, and patient; chaste and charitable, and ready to forgive: these make the noblest endowments of the inward man. These are the real beauties of the soul, that truly perfect it, and render it lovely and precious in the sight of God. But it is very certain that those holy dispositions which adorn the inward man, will also beautify the life; and render the conversation such as becomes the Gospel, like the shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day.

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

Attend while God's exalted Son
  Does his own glories shew;
Behold, I sit upon my throne,
  Creating all things new.

I'll be a sun of righteousness
  To the new world I make:
None but the new-born heirs of grace
  My glories shall partake.

Mighty Redeemer, set me free
  From my old state of sin;
O make my soul alive to thee;
  Create new pow'rs within.

Renew mine eyes, and form mine ears,
  And mould my heart afresh;
Give me new passions, joys, and fears;
  And turn the stone to flesh.

Far from the regions of the dead,
  From sin, and earth, and hell,
In the new world that grace has made
  I would for ever dwell.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

O Lord, thou hast revealed thyself to u
as the Lord God, merciful and gracio

abundant in loving-kindness, goodness, and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. O the height, and depth, and breadth of the love of God in sending Christ into the world to be a Saviour!

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; but thou hast laid on him the iniquities of us all. He poured out his soul unto death, and made intercession for the transgressors.

O receive us transgressors into thy favour. Our sins have abounded, let thy grace much more abound. We have fallen by our iniquity; but we would turn unto thee saying, "Take away from us all iniquity: receive us graciously, and love us freely." O that thou wouldest become a God in covenant with us, and a reconciled father to us.

We would be earnest with thee for that new heart which thou hast most graciously promised in thy new covenant. O mould us into a conformity to thy will; and make us the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. May the love of Christ constrain us to live, not to ourselves, but to him who *died for us* and rose again. Thus may *ve find his yoke* easy, and his burden light.

thus may we serve thee, not in the spirit of bondage as slaves, but in the spirit of adoption as dear children. Then shall we run in the way of thy commandments when thou hast enlarged our hearts.

O Lord, so renew our nature, that we may hate sin and delight in holiness; that thy commandments may be the rejoicing of our hearts, and thy word sweet unto our taste. Let thy statutes be our song in the house of our pilgrimage, and thy testimonies may we choose as our heritage for ever. Set up thy throne in our hearts; write thy law, and plant thy fear there; and fill us with all the graces of thy Spirit, that we may abound in the fruits of righteousness to the glory and praise of God.

O turn away our eyes from beholding vanity; let not vain thoughts lodge within us: but let us be serious and sober-minded. Let the love of the world be rooted out of us, and let the love of God in Christ be rooted in us. Mortify our pride and clothe us with humility, that when we have done all we may account ourselves unprofitable servants. Make us meek and patient, serious and sober-minded. Give us grace to keep under our body, and bring it into subjection. Mortify in us all envy, hatred,

ıalice, and uncharitableness; and help us ɔ love all men, especially our fellow Chris-ians, with a pure heart, fervently. What 'e know not, do thou teach us; and wherein 'e have done iniquity help us to do so no ıore.

And while we are here, make us, O Lord, iser and better every day; more holy, eavenly, and spiritual; that so our last ays may be our best days, our last works ur best works, and our last comforts our veetest comforts. And having put on the ıord Jesus here, may we at last be placed mong those whom he has redeemed by his lood and sanctified by his Spirit. Now to im who loved us and gave himself for us; ı him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Friday Evening.

Is this the kind return,
  And these the thanks we owe?
Thus to forget eternal love,
  Whence all our blessings flow?

To what a stubborn frame
  Has sin reduc'd our mind;
What wretched rebels, Lord, are we;
  And thou, how wondrous kind!

On us he bids the sun
  Shed his reviving rays;
For us the skies their circles run,
  To lengthen out our days.

The brutes obey their God,
  And bow their necks to men;
But we, more stubborn far than they,
  Refuse his easy reign.

Turn, turn us, mighty God,
  And mould our souls afresh;
Break, Sov'reign Grace, these hearts of stone,
  And give us hearts of flesh.

Let past ingratitude
  Bedew our weeping eyes;
And hourly as new mercies fall
  Let hourly thanks arise.

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

O thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, we beseech thee to accept our thanksgivings for the blessings of this day. Blessed be thy name for that light which no darkness overspreads, that sun which *never sets*: Jesus is our resurrection and *our life*. Grant that in him our souls may *rise to* newness of life, and that we may be

planted in the likeness of his resurrection. Glory be to thy name, O Lord, that there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. O, for thy mercy's sake, bring our souls into this happy state; and give us an ardent desire to enjoy the felicity of thy chosen. May this salvation be experienced by every soul before thee. May we all find it a present salvation, delivering us from every false hope; from the love of sin, the love of the world, and the lusts of the flesh. Teach us to pass through this present evil world as strangers and pilgrims, who have no continuing city here, and are seeking one to come.

Thou hast taught us by thy holy word, that if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his. O Father of mercies, hear our unworthy petitions, and bestow upon us this invaluable gift; that we may walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and that our conversation may be such as becometh the Gospel. Enable us to mortify the deeds of the body, to subdue the unholy desires of our corrupt nature, and to discharge every duty incumbent upon us in accordance with thy holy word.

Give us grace to lay aside every weight *and the sin* which more easily besets u

and let us run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Gracious Lord, be thou our strength; and enable us to contend faithfully with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Teach us our own depravity, and the exceeding sinfulness of sin: teach us the deceitfulness of our hearts; that so we may be truly humbled before thee, and stirred up to greater earnestness in the work of our salvation. May the cry of our souls ever be, "Lord, save us, or we perish!" Arm us this day with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit; and let us ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life.

O thou compassionate High Priest, by whom a new and living way has been consecrated for us, through the veil of thy own flesh, enable us to draw near humbly trusting in thee.

Where, O Lord, thou hast begun the good work of grace in any of our souls, we beseech thee to carry it on until the day of Christ, and to perfect it to thy praise and glory. Work in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Let us not, like many, be saying, "Who will shew us any good?" But may our prayer ever be, "Lord, lift

thou up the light of thy countenance upon us."

Preserve, we beseech thee, the light of the glorious Gospel in our own land. Bless all thy ministers who faithfully preach the truth as it is in Jesus: add to their number; and increase their usefulness in the awakening of the dead in sin, and in comforting and edifying thy people in their most holy faith.

Accept our imperfect praises for the blessings of this day. O keep us in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, "but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which "liveth and abideth for ever."—1 Peter i. 23.

This is the great dignity of believers, *that they* are the sons of God; and this

the great evidence of the love of God, that he hath bestowed this dignity on them. The gracious purpose of God to impart his goodness appears in this; that he hath formed for himself so many sons, not from amongst angels only, but also from amongst men; made, it is true, a little lower than they are, but yet dignified with this appellation. He had not merely the impression of God's footsteps, which all the creatures have, but his image. And most of all in this is the rich grace of God magnified; that when sin had defaced that image, degraded man from his honour, divested him of that title of sonship, and stamped our polluted nature with the marks of bondage, yea with the very image of satan; that out of mankind thus ruined and degenerated God should raise to himself a new race of sons. For this design was the "Word made flesh." John i. 12. The Son of God was made man, that he might make men the sons of God. It is by him alone we are restored to this privilege. And that we may know that this divine adoption is not a mere outward name, the *sonship* of the saints is denominated in *Scripture* a new generation, a new birth. *They* are "begotten of God," 1 John ii.

. A new being, a spiritual life, is com-
ınicated to them. They are not only
counted of the family of God by adop-
ın; but by this new birth they are indeed
; children, and partakers of the divine
ture. Hence we learn that true conver-
ın is not so slight a work as it is commonly
counted. It is not merely the reforma-
ın of some bad habits; it is a new creation.
ıough it be but a change of qualities;
t it is such an one as bears the name of
most essential and substantial change.
'om "children of disobedience," and that
ıich is linked with it, "children of wrath,"
be "sons of God and heirs of glory."
hey have a new spirit given them; a free,
incely, noble spirit; and this spirit influ-
ces their life and actions. Consider this
gnity; and be kindled with an ambition
ırthy of it. How doth a Christian pity
at poor vanity that men make so much
count of, their kindred and extraction!
o be of the highest blood royal, sons of the
ing of kings, and in the nearest relation
him, is indeed worth glorying in. This
lds matchless honour to that birth which
so honourable in the esteem of the world.
ut we all suppose ourselves to be of this
mber; whilst it is too evident that in

many this is a false confidence. There is no appearance of the Spirit of God; not a trace of his footsteps. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. viii. 14. "If ye know that he is righteous," says St. John, "ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." And how contrary to the most holy God, the lover and fountain of holiness, are they that delight in the debasing pleasures of sin! Do children love to dishonour their father's name? No: earthly-mindedness is a countersign. Shall the king's children, "they that were brought up in scarlet," as Jeremiah laments, "embrace the dunghill?" Lam. iv. 5. Princes, by their high birth and education, have usually their hearts filled with far higher thoughts than mean persons; they think either of conquest or of governing kingdoms. Are you not born to a better inheritance, if indeed born again? Why do you then debase yourselves? Why are you not more in prayer? There are no dumb children among those that are born of God; they have all that spirit of prayer, by which *they* not only speak, but cry Abba, Father.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

Now let our souls on wings sublime
Rise from the vanities of time;
Draw back the parting veil, and see
The glories of eternity.

Born by a new celestial birth,
Why should we grovel here on earth?
Why grasp at transitory toys,
So near to heaven's eternal joys?

Shall aught beguile us on the road,
When we are walking back to God!
For strangers into life we come,
And dying is but going home.

To dwell with God, and feel his love,
Imparts the bliss enjoy'd above;
How sweet the expectation now,
The early dawn of heaven below.

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

O Lord our God, unto whom all hearts are open, who knowest our downsitting and our uprising, and understandest our thoughts afar off, how much must thy pure

and holy eyes see in us which th
not approve! We must confess
have not entertained those thoug
cherished that regard so justly
Thee, the author of our being
father of our mercies; and though
have been restrained by thy gra
fluences from taking part with th
workers of iniquity; yet how mu
we lived without God in the wo
have we resisted thy authority! ab
goodness; neglected thine ordinanc
slighted the Gospel of thy dear S
little have we been restrained by t
and actuated by thy love; alas,
have we lived to thy glory, that m
teously might we have been dealt
ungodly; and driven away as cha
the wind! And even now, if brou
judgment, how could we stand in
gregation of the righteous, and
among the sons of God!

But, O Lord, there is forgiven
thee, that thou mayest be feared;
thee is plenteous redemption. Be
to have mercy upon us, for the sak
who came that he might turn awa
liness from Jacob; and who bore o
his own body on the tree.

For his sake pour down upon us, we pray thee, the influences of thy regenerating and sanctifying grace; adopt us into thy family, place us among thy children, and make us the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. Bestow upon us thy wondrous love; give us a new heart and a right spirit; henceforward may thy law be our delight; may we meditate on it continually; and may we become like trees planted by the rivers of waters, bringing forth fruit in their season.

Grant, O God, that this day we may experience the blessedness of those who walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. May our ways be directed to keep thy statutes. And, do thou, O Lord, so control our plans and purposes, and so regulate and bless all our undertakings, that a happy and holy prosperity may attend our steps. May we not be tempted to do or say any thing that shall have an unhallowed influence on our characters, our hope, or our profession. And grant that as obedient children we may not fashion ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance; but as He who hath called us is

holy, so may we be holy in all manner of conversation.

Most gracious God, let thy heavenly blessing rest on all around us; may none of those we love, and with whom we dwell, be left to live, and at last to perish, as children of the wicked one.

O thou God of peace, who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do thy will; working in us that which is well pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To whom with thyself, O Father, and the blessed Spirit, be all honour and glory now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

Safely through another week
God has brought us on our way
Let us now a blessing seek
On th' approaching sabbath day:
Day of all the week the best;
Emblem of eternal rest!

Mercies multiplied each hour
  Through the week our praise demand:
Guarded by Almighty pow'r,
  Fed and guided by his hand:
    Tho' ungrateful we have been,
    Only made returns of sin.

While we pray for pard'ning grace
  Through our great Redeemer's name,
Shew thy reconciled face,
  Shine away our sin and shame:
    From our worldly care set free,
    May we rest this night with thee.

When the morn shall bid us rise,
  May we feel thy presence near:
May thy glory meet our eyes,
  When we in thy house appear:
    There afford us, Lord, a taste
    Of our everlasting feast.

May thy gospel's joyful sound
  Conquer sinners, comfort saints:
Make the fruits of grace abound;
  Bring relief for all complaints.
    Thus may all our sabbaths prove
    Till we join the church above!

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

O Lord our God, who art over all blessed
r ever; and needest not the services of

men or angels to make the least addition to thy glory: we bless thee, that thou hast been pleased in love to our souls to appoint, that we should wait upon thee in the duties of thy worship, and engage in that immediate service, which is the blissful employment of the hosts of heaven.

But though thou, O Lord, canst not need us, nor any thing of ours: we stand in continual need of Thee; of thy compassion and forgiveness, thy grace and guidance, thy blessing and assistance. Without these we must be for ever wretched, without hope of escaping the misery due to our sins, or attaining that glory which is the free gift of God in Christ Jesus.

To thee therefore, O Almighty God, do we lift up our eyes. All our expectation is from thee: still would we call, and wait, and depend upon thee, till thou have mercy upon us. O blot out our transgressions as a cloud; and justify us freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Bless us, O God of our salvation, in turning every one of us from our iniquities, and in giving us grace to live according to *thy holy* word.

To this end we beseech thee, O Lord, to *enlighten* our dark minds with the beams

of thy saving truth. Reform our rebellious wills, and incline them to a cheerful compliance with the motions of thy good Spirit. Regulate our unruly passions; purify all our affections; convert every faculty of our souls, and make us fit temples for the Holy Ghost.

We desire most thankfully to acknowledge thine undeserved goodness in bringing us safely to the close of another week, and in the mercies thou hast bestowed upon us during the course of it. O keep us ever mindful of the shortness of time, and the uncertainty of our continuance in this world. Make us more deeply concerned for our everlasting welfare; and more careful to improve every present good for our soul's eternal advantage. Let the work of thy grace be daily advancing in our hearts, that we may grow in grace as we grow in years, and be continually ripening for the full enjoyment of thy glory.

We pray thee, O Lord, to continue to us thy favour and thy fatherly protection this night. And as we go to rest after the labours of the day, so help us daily to do thy work upon earth, that at the close of life we may enter that rest which remaineth for thy people.

Fit us, we beseech thee, for thy service o

the approaching sabbath: and enable us diligently to improve every means of grace it may afford, in humble dependence on thy blessing. May Christ be preached to our ears by thy ministers, and to our hearts by thy blessed Spirit, to the destruction of our sins, and the sanctification and salvation of our souls. O prepare thy ministers for their solemn work. May they come forth in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of peace: and while they preach Christ and his salvation to others, may they feel his love in their own souls. May thy word drop as the rain, and distil as the dew upon thy people. May dead sinners feel its quickening power, and thy saints its everlasting consolations. May weak hearts be strengthened. To those who mourn in Zion, do thou appoint, O Lord, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Bless and keep all who are near and dear to us; may they know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, and enjoy that peace which passeth all understanding. May our enemies be blessed of thee. These supplications for ourselves and others, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, to hear and answer, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SIXTH WEEK

MEDITATION

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

THE FERVENT PRAYER.

"And *there is* none that calleth upon thy "name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of "thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and "hast consumed us, because of our iniquities." —Isaiah lxiv. 7.

Those that would take hold of God in prayer so as to prevail with him, must *stir up* themselves to do it: all that is within us must be employed in the duty, our thoughts fixed, and our affections ardent.

To pray is to take hold of God by faith; to take hold of the promises and the declarations God has made of his good will to us, and to plead them with him: to take hold of him, as of one who is about to depart from us, earnestly begging of him not to leave us; or of one that is departed, soliciting his return: to take hold of him as he

that wrestles takes hold of him he wr
with; for the seed of Jacob so wrestle
him as to prevail. All that is withi
must be engaged and summoned int
service. We must stir up the gift t
in us, by a consideration of the work t
before us, and a close application of
to it.

But how can we expect God should
to us in the ways of mercy, when we ne
to do this; when those that profess
intercessors are mere triflers? No wo
if our profession of religion wither a
grow dry and sapless; no wonder if
turn away his face from us; no won
he put us in the furnace of trial; not in
to consume us as dross, but to melt
gold; to refine and new mould us.

When he saith to us, "Return, ye
sliding children," should we not re
reply, "Behold we come unto thee, for
art the Lord our God?" If he speak
by way of conviction and reproof, ougl
not to answer, "Father, we have si
against heaven and in thy sight, an
no more worthy to be called thy childr
If he speak to us by way of comfort, o
we not to reply in praises? If we love
can we be at a loss for something to

him? something for our hearts to pour out before him, whose grace has already imparted a desire after it? We may rest assured, and should pray in this assurance, that wherever God finds a praying heart he will be found a prayer-hearing God.

O our God, estrange us from everything that will not let us love thee with all our heart, and soul, and strength. O that we were more sensibly affected with the knowledge and love of thy perfections: that at least thy sparing and forbearing mercy might fill, and everlastingly possess our hearts with admiration; that so we may with the greatest sorrow and grief bewail our offences against such tender compassion towards us. O let the love of Christ constrain us; may we look unto Jesus, till we feel that we do indeed love him; that he is all our salvation, and all our desire.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire
  Utter'd or unexpress'd;
The motion of a hidden fire
  That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
  The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
  When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
  That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
  The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
  The Christian's native air;
His watch-word at the gates of death:
  He enters heaven with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
  Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice,
  And cry, "Behold he prays."

In prayer on earth the saints are one,
  In word, and deed, and mind:
When with the Father and his Son
  Sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made on earth alone;
  The Holy Spirit pleads;
And Jesus on the eternal throne
  For sinners intercedes.

O Thou by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way:
The path of prayer thyself hast trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Morning.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. What wonders of goodness and mercy hast thou done for us unworthy and sinful creatures from our earliest existence up to the present hour!

Though we have misimproved so many precious seasons of grace; yet hast thou most mercifully brought us to behold another of the days of the Son of man. O may the day-star from on high visit our souls, and the Sun of righteousness arise upon us with healing in his wings.

Help us on this, the Lord's day, the type of that glorious rest which remaineth for the people of God, to rejoice and be exceeding glad. Help us so to remember the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, that *our hearts* may ascend to the throne of his *glory.*

O Lord, make this day a sabbath to our souls; a day of spiritual improvement, of heavenly consolation, and near communion with thee. Banish from our minds every vain and worldly thought; and may we begin and spend it to thy honour and our own salvation.

Blessed be thy name, O heavenly Father, who hast pitied a sinful world, and given thy dear Son to die that we might live; and to rise again that we might be justified. Blessed be our adorable Redeemer who took our flesh and blood, and by his sufferings and death reconciled us sinful creatures to thine offended Majesty. Adored be thy divine mercy, which sent thy glorious Gospel to this our land, and has put into our hands the sacred volume, in which we read the covenant of grace, and learn the way to everlasting life. Help us this day, O Lord, to hear thy word, and attend the ordinances of thy house with pleasure and profit.

O Holy Spirit, assist and bless all thy ministering servants: make them faithful to thee, faithful to the truth, and faithful to the souls entrusted to their charge. May they be mighty through thee to convince the unconvinced, to convert the unconverted, to heal them that are of a contrite heart,

and to build up believers in their most holy faith.

Especially bless thy truth to our own souls. O that our consciences may this day be awakened, our understanding enlightened, our wills bowed to the obedience of faith; our affections fixed on heavenly things, and our hearts enriched with divine graces and consolations. Make us fervent in prayer, and joyful in praise. Deliver us from a wandering eye and heart. Let not vain thoughts lodge within us, or interrupt our humble converse with thee. Let us love the habitation of thy house, and the place where thy honour dwelleth. And at the close of public worship, may we find our hearts the fitter for devout retirement.

We pray thee, O Lord, in behalf of those who shall be unwillingly detained from thy house; comfort them in secret; sanctify their absence; and as they are excluded from the stream, give them to drink the deeper at the fountain.

Graciously accept this our morning tribute of praise and thanksgiving for Jesus Christ's sake. In the evening let our own experience joyfully testify that a day spent in nearness to God is better than a thousand spent in earthly pleasures. And while we

are favoured with such means of grace and foretastes of glory, may we look and long more ardently for the better work and worship of an infinitely better sabbath at thy right-hand.

Hear O Lord in heaven, thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest forgive: and do for us, and for all whom we would bear on our hearts before thee, according to the riches of thy grace in the great Redeemer: to Whom, with Thyself, and the Holy Spirit, be endless praises. Amen.

HYMN

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
There they behold thy mercy-seat:
Where'er they seek thee thou art found;
And ev'ry place is hallow'd ground.

For thou, within no walls confin'd,
Inhabitest the humble mind:
Such ever bring thee where they come;
And going take thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
Here to our waiting souls proclaim
The sweetness of thy saving name.

Here may we prove the pow'r of prayer
To strengthen faith, and sweeten care:
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
Nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
And make each wavering heart thine own.

PRAYER

For the Lord's-Day Evening.

Blessed and glorious Majesty, we desire humbly to adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and through him as our reconciled God and Father. We have none in heaven but thee, and there is nothing upon earth we would desire beside thee. Thy favour is life, and thy loving-kindness is better than life. Thou hast given us all things richly to enjoy, pertaining both to life and godliness. Every day hast thou loaded us with thy benefits.

On this thy holy day thou hast taught us the knowledge of thyself, and of thy dear Son, whom to know is life eternal. Thou hast set before us life and death, blessing

and cursing, good and evil, that we might flee from the wrath to come, and secure the blessings of thy people. Thou hast shewed us the evil of sin, the danger of an unconverted state, and the riches of pardoning grace and love. Thou hast invited us by thy precious promises, and hast opened to our view the glories of thy heavenly kingdom.

We thank thee if holiness has in any degree appeared to us in its beauty, sin in its deformity, Christ in his all-sufficiency to save, and thy Holy Spirit in his gracious influences to renew our natures, and fit us for a perfect sabbath at thy right-hand. Adored be thine infinite mercy, if any of us have experienced thy recovering grace! If thou hast plucked us as brands out of the burning: if thy pardoning love hath delivered us from guilt and condemnation, let our souls here find a refuge from thine eternal wrath. [*To us thy promises are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Satan, the world, and death are overcome for us. O death! where is thy sting? *O grave! where is thy victory?* Because Christ lives we shall live *also.* Because our head is glorified we shall

* *This* parenthesis may be omitted where the mind of the *reader* cannot rise so high.

be glorified with him. Once we were dead in sin, but are now quickened to spiritual life. Long were we in ignorance and unbelief, but are now light in the Lord. Too long were we carnal, sold under sin, but the Holy Spirit hath renewed us in the law of our mind. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ. O that every soul now in thy presence, not one excepted, may bear for itself a joyful part in these thanksgivings and praises. And why, Lord, are we regenerated and sanctified, but to love, and praise, and serve thee? We beseech thee, perfect these weak and languid graces. Make us more holy, and heavenly, and bring us nearer to thyself in faith and love, that we may rise higher in thy praises.]

Lord pardon the sins of our holy things. Give us grace to live a life of communion with thee, both in the diligent use of thine ordinances, and a watchful observance of thy providences, trusting in thee at all times, pouring out our hearts before thee, and rejoicing in thy love and favour. What we know not do thou teach us; and wherein we have *done iniquity* help us to do so no more. *Fix our affections* on things above, and let

temptation and conflict. In all co
and relations may we glorify thee, m
a good conscience, and welcome th
will with a lively hope, and holy jo
salvation by Jesus Christ. When v
to die may we have clear evidences
ven, finish our course with joy, and
trance be ministered unto us abu
into the everlasting kingdom of ou
and Saviour.

Graciously afford us every perso
family blessing. Take us under t
tection this night: be with us in all o
through the week on which we are e
Help us to carry with us into eve
duty, and occurrence the temper a
timents of thy day. May we by t

grace and consolation be all honour and glory. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Monday Morning.

"Your threshing shall reach unto the vintage: "and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time. "The ploughman shall overtake the reaper: and "the treader of grapes him that soweth seed."—Lev. xxvi. 5, and Amos ix. 13.

Duties are the harvests and vintages of our souls. O what blessed lives should we live, did we so improve and husband what we gain in one duty, that it might last us to another! that the life, and warmth, and refreshment of the last might be retained till the next; and that thus we might be carried on in a holy, lively, and heavenly frame from duty to duty, as Israel walked on from strength to strength, till they came and appeared before God in Sion.

That which keeps us so low and barren in religion is, that whatever we have obtained of the Lord in duties or ordinances we presently lose it. When we have been sometimes weeping before the Lord, and we

as soon as duty is over we go away
all, and bury all that we have thus ol
in a confused heap of worldly thoug
business. We unbend and let do
spirits, and lay aside all thoughts
till we come to duty again. We
ourselves to live in such an estran
from God all the rest of our time, t
and the world have a whole day's
pull down what an hour's duty ha
building; a whole week's time to
and steal away what a sabbath hath
in: and at the returns of duty we f
hearts at the same loss, in the sam
ness and hardness that they were befo
the Old Testament, though the sa
were offered but morning and eveni

take so little care to keep it alive, that it is quite out before the evening; and when we come to offer our evening sacrifice, we have no fire to kindle it.

Brethren, hath the Lord visited you, and quickened you in duty? Oh! think with yourselves, what a sweet life should I live, might it be thus with me always! what a pity it is that such light should ever go out: that such grace should be so short-lived! If I do not look to myself better, this sunshine will last but a little while; and how will the Lord take it, if I suffer the sparks which he hath kindled so suddenly to be quenched? How is my soul like to prosper if, for an hour I am in the mount with God, raised up to heaven for the time; and then within a few hours after, sunk into the mire of the earth? What a sad change is this! When will your souls come to any thing if you have only some few such lucid intervals, and all the rest of your time covered over with clouds and darkness? Beloved, if ever you expect to prosper in grace, or be settled in peace, be careful of maintaining your praying comforts. Do not think to make use of them to save you the labour of after care; but to help you to be more careful and fruitful. Let your eye be much upon

your hearts: observe diligently how they hold up or sink; that so if there be the least damp or decay growing upon you, you may observe it before it is gone too far. It is no wonder that we lose all upon such a sudden, if as soon as our duties are over we go away and think no more where we have been, or what we have been about; as if we were well content to take our leave of our duties and our God together! When you come from your closets still watch your hearts; see to it, that the temptations you meet with do not so easily divert your thoughts from what you have been begging or wrestling for on your knees. Often lift up your hearts to the Lord in short ejaculations. No business, no company can hinder this duty: and this will be a special advantage to you; therefore neglect it not. Every sigh or breathing of your soul heavenwards will fetch down fresh influences from heaven upon you!

Let us make present use of what we have obtained. God gives grace, and strength, and life, for our use; and use will preserve it. Hath the Lord warmed thy heart? go warm thy brother's heart, and that will keep thine own from cooling. Hath God spoken comfortably to thy soul? go and speak of

thy God, and what he hath done for thee, to others. Hath God inclined and thereby fitted thee for action? take the season for doing good in which thou canst best shew thy love to that Saviour who loved us and gave himself for us.

HYMN

For Monday Morning.

Our God is love; and all his saints
  His image bear below:
The heart with love to God inspir'd
  With love to man will glow.

O may we love each other, Lord,
  As we are lov'd of thee:
For none are truly born of God
  Who live in enmity.

Heirs of the same immortal bliss,
  Our hopes and fears the same;
The cords of love our hearts should bind
  The law of love inflame.

So shall the vain contentious world
  Our peaceful lives approve;
And wond'ring say, as they of old,
  "See how these Christians love!"

PRAYER

For Monday Morning.

A FAMILY THANKSGIVING.

Bless the Lord, O our souls! O Lord our God, thou art very great, and clothed with honour and majesty! Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment. Thou stretchest out the heavens like a curtain. Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, that they should not be moved. The world is thine, O Lord, and the fulness thereof. Thou hast founded it on the seas, and established it on the floods. And all that dwell not only on this earth, but in all places of thy boundless dominion, are thine; the creatures of thy power, the children of thy providence, and the subjects of thy government.

We who are but a small part of thy family on earth are met together with the return of another day, to adore and magnify, to bless and praise thy holy name: for that thy name is near, thy wondrous works of goodness and never-failing mercy declare. We have lain us down and slept, and are again awaked the living to praise thee; because thou O Lord hast sustained us. Our

voice shalt thou hear in the morning: "In the morning will we direct our prayer to thee and look up." Thine we are, and thee would we serve. We will praise thee, O Lord, as long as we have any being.

We commit ourselves and all belonging to us to thy special care, protection, and guidance through this day. We are entering on a *day of business;* be with us, O Lord, we beseech thee, in all our honest and lawful undertakings. Enable us to be diligent, upright, and faithful in our several employments and stations. Let not our hearts envy sinners; but may we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long. And do thou who art wonderful in counsel and excellent in working, give us that wisdom which is profitable to direct us in our affairs, and crown all with thy blessing.

We are entering on another *day of common service and usefulness* in life: O teach us to employ our talents and capacities more and more for thy honour, and to the benefit of mankind. May we more habitually glorify thee in our bodies and spirits, which are thine.

We are entering on a *day of trial:* help us, Lord, we beseech thee, to acquit ourselves well through the whole of it; that

our hearts may not justly reproach c
demn us for any allowed sin.

We are entering on a *day of ca*
quite ignorant about the events of it
known unto God are all its events
are under thy direction, and subject
control. Help us, that we may b
careful for nothing. If it please the
we pass this day in a comfortable m
But whatever may be thy will, may
patience and thankfulness possess our
and may the peace of God which pass
understanding keep our hearts and
through Christ Jesus.

We are entering on another *day that*
us so much nearer to our last day,
an awful unchangeable eternity. L
teach us to number our days, that w
apply our hearts unto wisdom. May
found discharging the duties of eve
in its season, and thus wait all the d
our appointed time till our change
And now, O Lord, hear, accept, and
us; and do for us above all we can
think, for Jesus Christ's sake. Ame

HYMN

For Monday Evening.

Come magnify the Lord with me,
  Come let us all exalt his name:
I sought the eternal God, and he
  Has not expos'd my hope to shame.

I told him all my secret grief,
  My secret groanings reach'd his ears;
He gave my inward pains relief,
  And calm'd the tumult of my fears.

To him the poor lift up their eyes;
  On them his love delights to shine:
A beam of mercy from the skies
  Fills them with light and joy divine.

His holy angels pitch their tents
  Around the men that serve the Lord;
O fear and love him all his saints;
  Taste of his grace, and trust his word.

Lord, we will bless thee all our days,
  Thy praise shall dwell upon our tongue;
Our souls shall glory in thy grace,
  While saints rejoice to hear our song.

PRAYER

For Monday Evening.

O most holy Lord God Almighty, who is God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, *urful in* praises, doing wonders? Thou ar'

infinitely blessed in thyself, and the gracious author of all our blessings. Thou art the only sovereign Lord, who canst do what thou pleasest in heaven and earth. Thou alone hast everlasting life in thyself, and thou only canst bestow it upon others.

O our God, we are ashamed, and blush to lift up our faces before thee; for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses are grown up even unto the heavens. If we should attempt to justify ourselves, our own mouths would condemn us. We have walked after vanity and become vain: we have forsaken our own mercies. Our hearts are bent to backslide from thee the living God; they are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.

Lord, we come to thee, as the poor publican, praying, "God be merciful unto me a sinner." Sprinkle our consciences with the blood of Jesus, and we shall be clean; wash us in that crimson fountain, and we shall be whiter than snow. May we be justified freely through faith in Christ Jesus. Let us have access unto that grace wherein thy believing people stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Let thy Spirit witness with our spirits, that we are children of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

Lord, give us a wise and understanding heart: that which we know not, teach thou us. O Holy Spirit, guide us into all truth, and make us to understand wherein we have erred. Make thy way plain before our face. Lord, give us to believe, and make us strong in faith, giving glory to God. Let our hearts be purified by faith; and by faith enable us to overcome the world, to resist the devil, and to live continually upon Jesus, drawing out of his fulness grace for grace. Unite our hearts to fear thy name, that we may never depart from thee. Give us grace to love thee supremely, to delight ourselves always in thee, and thus experience the fulfilment of the desires of our souls.

May the very God of peace sanctify us wholly, and may our whole spirit be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life: and when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou with us that we may fear no evil. Redeem our souls from the power of the grave, and at length receive us to thy glory through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour; to whom with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and

glory, thanksgiving and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Tuesday Morning.

GOD'S LOVE TO SINFUL MAN.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave "his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth "in him should not perish, but have everlasting "life."—John iii. 16.

God in Christ is a God of pity and compassion to us; a God of patience, a God of mercy, with whom is plenteous redemption; a God pardoning iniquity, and passing by transgression: loving us in our low estate; pardoning and washing us; saving us from our sins and from the wrath to come. Such is the great love that kindles ours; *abused* love, *provoked* love, and yet *forgiving* love! They to whom much is forgiven, will love much! Now in Christ we have not only an interest in God, but in some degree a *present possession*. "He that hath the Son, *hath* the Father also." We see his light, we behold and taste his goodness, we enjoy

his presence, he dwelleth in us, and we in him; and hence we love, [and herein we rejoice. No wonder that carnal hearts are strangers to this. But oh what a sad wonder it is that Saints, who have so often mounted towards heaven, are yet no nearer home! that they, whose feet are so often on the mountain of the Lord, should be still so much on earth; so far from God, when God is among them! Where, Christians, are your affections? How is it they are here below? What have you here? Your city is above, your home is above, your God, your Jesus, your treasure is above. How is it that where your treasure is, your hearts are not also? that you direct to heaven your eyes, your prayers, your complaints, your promises, and still leave your hearts below? Did we love our God more, we certainly should be more with him, and to better purpose; we should not go away without his blessing, nor throw it away when we had obtained it. Without this what is knowledge, faith, hope, and patience? Dost thou value thy soul? Is religion, is heaven, is Christ, is God himself, of any account with thee? Then prize love to God: without *which he is* no God to thee; Christ is no *Christ to* thee; heaven is no heaven fr

thee; better thou hadst no being than be destitute of this. O prize the love of God; prize and seek, prize and pray: pray as for thy soul, as for thy everlasting kingdom. Love and thou wilt be holy, humble, and fruitful: love and thou wilt please, praise, and enjoy thy God. How little affectionate warmth is there in our spirits! Do we feel our hearts tending upwards, ascending in our own flames? We *wish* well to his name and interest, we wish he were ours; we wish ourselves his. Oh! if wishing were loving, what Christians should we be! But doth the kingdom of God *suffer violence?* the kingdom of heaven may *offer* violence if it will, and take us by force; but how little violence doth it *suffer!* We say we love God; we desire to be holy; but is there nothing we desire more? O how few cordial friends hath Christ in the world; and how little affection from those few! So little, that we cannot tell ourselves whether it be anything or nothing. How many marks must we consider ere we can prove its existence; and yet at last be still in doubt! How few of us can make our appeal to him, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." O Lord, do thou kindle in our souls this sacred fire; and then shall our

mouth be opened; then will we speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. Then shall we sing of the name which the Lord hath claimed; "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works. Let thy saints bless thee; let them abundantly utter the memory of thy goodness, and sing of thy righteousness. O our God, thou art all love, all goodness, all grace! let thy servants be all love, and praise, and joy.

HYMN

For Tuesday Morning.

Come all harmonious tongues,
Your noblest music bring:
'Tis Christ,—the everlasting God
And Christ,—the Man, we sing.

Tell how he took our flesh,
To take away our guilt:
Tell of the drops of sacred blood,
That hellish monsters spilt.

Down to the shades of death
He bow'd his awful head:
Yet he arose to live and reign
When death itself is dead.

No more the bloody spear,
The cross and nails no more:
For hell itself shakes at his name,
And all the heav'ns adore.

There the Redeemer sits,
High on his Father's throne;
The Father lays his vengeance by,
And smiles upon his Son.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Morning.

FOR HOLINESS.

O most gracious Father, thou hast invited all who feel their need of thy grace to come unto thee; and hast promised that those who come thou wilt not cast out. Thou fillest the hungry with good things, whilst the rich are sent empty away. O that we may hunger and thirst after thy pardoning and sanctifying grace; and may we desire nothing so much as to experience thy peace, thy favour, and thy love.

We are brought to the beginning of this day that therein we may increase in the knowledge of thee, and give thee glory. O grant that this great end of our life may be fully answered.

Thou, O God, art a holy God: Christ our Saviour is a holy Saviour: thy Spirit is the Holy Spirit: thy heaven is a holy place: thy angels are holy angels: and thy redeemed people are a holy people. O Lord, make us also holy; for without holiness we cannot see thee. May our hearts be separated from sin to thee. May we not only abstain from sin, but really hate it, because thou hatest it. May we hate all sin. Whatever is inconsistent with thy will, *that* may we abhor.

May we make conscience of our words and thoughts as well as of our actions. May we desire not so much to appear good in the eyes of our fellow creatures, as to be so in thy sight. May we labour to approve ourselves to thee, thou heart-searching God. May thy word be the rule of our conduct, and thy glory the end of our conversation; for we cannot enter into heaven till we are thus made holy.

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, both our souls and bodies this day with thy perpe-

tual mercy; and because our weakness with
out thee cannot but fall, keep us ever b
thy help from all things hurtful; and lea
us to all things profitable for our salvation
May thy grace always go before and follo
us, and make us continually to be given t
all good works. Increase and multiply upo
us thy mercy, that thou being our ruler an
guide we may so pass through things tem
poral, that finally we lose not the thing
which are eternal. We acknowledge tha
we can do no good thing without thee; (
grant us the help of thy grace, that in keep
ing thy commandments we may please the
both in will and deed.

O Lord, as we are dying sinners, we be
seech thee, for the sake of thy dear Son
mercifully to hear our prayers, and to spar
us who confess our sins unto thee; that w
whose consciences by sin are accused, by th
merciful pardon may be absolved. Thou
sands of poor sinners, O Lord, who hav
been guilty like ourselves, have found merc
at thy hands. Thy ear is not become heav
that it cannot hear, nor is thy hand short
ened that it cannot save. O may we b
added to the number of those who shall b
monuments of thy grace for evermore.

We have nothing to plead in our own b

half but that Christ died to save sinners. We lie entirely at thy mercy, and have no hope but in the name of that gracious Lord and Saviour, whom thou hast exalted to give repentance and remission of sin; to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

For Tuesday Evening.

Shew pity, Lord; O Lord, forgive;
Let a repenting rebel live:
Are not thy mercies large and free?
May not a sinner trust in thee?

My crimes though great do not surpass
The power and glory of thy grace:
Great God, thy nature hath no bound!
So let thy pardoning love be found.

O wash my soul from every sin,
And make my guilty conscience clean;
Here on my heart the burden lies,
And past offences round me rise.

My lips with shame my sins confess
Against thy law, against thy grace:
Lord, should thy judgment grow severe,
I am condemn'd, but thou art clear!

Should sudden vengeance seize my breath,
I must pronounce thee just in death:
And if my soul were sent to hell,
Thy righteous law approves it well.

Yet save a trembling sinner, Lord;
Whose hope, still hov'ring round thy word,
Would light on some sweet promise there,
Some sure support against despair.

PRAYER

For Tuesday Evening.

A PENITENTIARY PRAYER.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious, who willest not the death of a sinner, but wouldest rather that he turn and live; we feel and confess that we are sinners before thee. We were born with inclinations to that which is evil, and have too much followed those inclinations all our lives. We have lived at a distance from thee, forgetting our own souls, and that eternal world into which we must shortly enter. We have been strangers to that holy and heavenly life which can alone prepare us for eternal blessedness; and without love to that adorable Saviour who so loved us, who wept, and bled, and died for us! With what affecting lan-

guage did he plead with us! He called, b
we did not answer! He assured us, "H
that cometh unto me I will nowise cast out
but we were not moved. His compassio
yearned over us; but our hearts did no
relent. His blessed Spirit awakened ou
conscience; but how soon did it fall asleep
again! Lord, we are ashamed to look back
upon our lives. What deep and heartfelt
contrition do our sins demand! Lord, give
us that godly sorrow which worketh repent-
ance unto salvation, not to be repented of.
We have taken upon ourselves the Chris-
tian name, but often, alas! have we fallen, to
the dishonour of God and the discredit of
religion. We confess, O Lord, that we
have often neglected thy service, and slight-
ed thy love, and that our duties have been
performed in a cold, sluggish, and heartless
manner. We have not improved the talents
thou hast given us to thy glory, or to the
edification of our fellow creatures. We have
suffered the love of the world to weaken our
graces, and much evil has been mixed with
our good. Often while we have slept, has
Satan surprised us, and temptation pre-
vailed over our souls. We have too much
conformed to the customs of a sinful world,
and lived contrary to our profession, and be-

low our hopes as members of thy spiritual church, and recipients of thy grace. What a slow progress have we made in the ways of holiness! How frequent and strong have been the workings of unbelief, pride, passion, envy, and uncharitableness!

Lord, how have our sins been aggravated by the love and mercy thou hast shewn to us, and the long experience we have had of thy bounty and goodness! Though thou art our God, how often have we offended against thee! though thou art our Father, how often have we displeased thee! How have we by our sins wounded that Redeemer who died for us, and grieved that Holy Spirit who has comforted us! O for a broken heart and a contrite spirit! O for inward shame and heartfelt remorse! O that our stony hearts might be broken, and be turned into hearts of flesh!

Thou hast mercifully invited those who are weary and heavy laden to come unto thee, and hast promised that thou wilt refresh them. O let us experience the refreshing influences of thy grace on our souls this evening. Remember not our offences, which are many and great, neither take thou vengeance of our sins. But spare us, good Lord, spare us whom thou hast redeemed

with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever. We ask for repentance, for mercy, for pardon and grace, only through the merits and mediation of him who loved us, and gave himself for us: in whom we hope to be found living and dying, and for ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Wednesday Morning.

SPIRITUAL JOY.

"And these things write we unto you, that "your joy may be full."—1 John i. 4.

The Gospel dispensation is not a dispensation of fear, sorrow, and dread; but one of peace and joy. Terror and astonishment may well attend mount Sinai; but exultation and joy become mount Sion, where appears the eternal Word, the eternal Life, manifested in our flesh.

The mystery of the Christian religion is directly calculated to inspire mortals with joy. It should be joy to us that the eternal Son of God should come to seek and save us; that he made a full atonement for our sins; that he has conquered sin, death, and hell; that he lives as our intercessor and

advocate with the Father; and that he will come again to perfect and glorify his persevering believers. They, therefore, live below the use and end of the Christian revelation, that are not filled with spiritual joy. Believers should rejoice in their happy relation to God, as his sons and heirs, beloved and adopted: in their happy relation to the Son of God, as his members and co-heirs with himself; in the pardon of their sins, the sanctification of their natures, the adoption of their persons, and in the prospect of grace and glory that will be revealed at the return of their Lord and Head from heaven. Were they confirmed in their holy faith, how would they rejoice! The disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. And for this purpose the Apostles declared that which they had seen and heard, "that ye may have fellowship with us." The Apostle means not personal fellowship; but such as is consistent with personal distance from each other. It is from communion with heaven, and in blessings that come from thence and tend thither, that our fellowship arises. This we declare and testify, that *you* may share with us in our privileges and *happiness*. Those who are made happy by *gospel* grace, would fain have others happy

too. We see also that there is a fellowship or communion that runs through the whole church of God. There may be some personal distinctions and peculiarities; but there is a communion or common participation of privilege and dignity belonging to all saints, from the highest apostle to the lowest believer. As there is the same precious faith, there are the same precious promises dignifying and crowning that faith, and the same precious blessings and glories enriching and filling those promises. That believers may be ambitious of this communion; that they may be instigated to retain and hold fast the faith that is the means of such communion; that the Apostles also may manifest their love to the disciples in assisting them to the same communion with themselves, they open to them what it is and where it is. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. We have communion with the Father and Son in our happy relation to them, in our receiving heavenly blessings from them, and in our spiritual converse with them. We have now such communion with God and Christ, as is a foretaste of our everlasting abode *with* them, and enjoyment of them in *the heavenly* glory. See whither the Go

pel revelation tends to advance us! far above sin and earth: and to carry us to blessed communion with the Father and the Son. See for what end the eternal Life was made flesh! that he might advance us to eternal life in communion with the Father and himself. Hear thy blessed Lord when he says, "Behold! I stand at the door and knock." Let not then the world be admitted, and let not our hearts go with our cares to the ends of the earth; let our spiritual desires be so strong as to drown the noise of these disturbers, and command silence to every impertinent thought.

Behold those cords of love that are let down in every ordinance! In every providence there is a cord let down to gather up hearts. Hearken to those divine calls! Come up hither, come up hither. We come; Lord, thou bidst us come; O lend us thy hand, and lift us up. Come on, Christians, come let us be happy. If we love we are happy, we live. Let us then rejoice; let us live. While we linger on this earth we die. Let every duty, every exercise, every power, our bodies and our souls, be living sacrifices, *holy* and acceptable to him. Canst thou *not love*? Look till thou canst; look up to *thy* God, send up thy thoughts thither. Let

thy meditations be of him: these will not be long before the throne ere they draw up thy heart. Look on thy Saviour; behold his hands and his feet. Lift up a prayer; Lord, if thou lovest me, let me love thee! I would seek till I can see and feel myself drawn by the sight. What have I here, Lord! My all is with thee, my help, my hope, my treasure, my life is hid with Christ in God. Where my treasure is, there let my heart be also. Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Morning.

O happy souls! O glorious state,
  Of overflowing grace:
When saints approach their Father's seat,
  And see his lovely face!

They find access at every hour,
  To God within the vail;
Hence they derive a quick'ning pow'r,
  And joys that never fail.

Lord, I address thy heavenly throne,
  Call me a child of thine;
Send down the Spirit of thy Son,
  To form my heart divine.

There shed thy choicest love abroad,
And make my comforts strong;
Then shall I say, my Father God,
With an unwavering tongue.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Morning.

Almighty God, who art a Father to bless, a Redeemer to save, and a Spirit to sanctify us unworthy sinners; look down in mercy upon us this morning, and enable us to look up to thee in faith and hope. Accept, we pray thee, our heartfelt thanks for the light of another day, and the safety and rest of the past night.

Enable us now to lift up our hearts unto thee, as a God hearing prayer, and receiving and pardoning sinners who come unto thee in the name of thy beloved Son. We bless thee that he is engaged for us in the covenant of redemption. May we exercise faith in Him as the faithful and true witness. May we give up ourselves to be ruled, and taught, and saved by him in whom we have full and free salvation.

Help us to *draw near to thee for mercy and grace,* in dependance on him as our righteousness; and to go forth to every duty in

dependance on him as our strength. Every day would we desire to grow into a nearer and holier communion with thee, and receive out of his fulness grace for grace. May the greatness of our necessities, the strength of our corruptions, and the subtlety of Satan's temptations, engage our hearts to greater watchfulness and prayer.

In our daily walk and conversation may we rejoice in thy promises, and have respect to all thy commandments. O fill us with all the graces of thy Spirit, and with peace of conscience through thy redeeming love. May we at all times feel assured that the Lord God will help us; and that, therefore, we shall not be confounded.

We bless thee that we have a Saviour to hope in. Having such an advocate with the Father, we would not only come boldly to the throne of grace, but would sit down under its shadow with delight, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

O thou God of love, shew unto us here thy loving-kindness; cause all thy goodness to pass before us; proclaim thy name as the Lord God, merciful and gracious, and let the joy of the Lord be our strength. May we delight ourselves in thee as the fountain of

blessedness: and by faith may we rely upo thy gracious declaration, "Fear not, I am with thee: I am thy shield and exceedin great reward: I will strengthen thee, ye I will uphold thee with the right hand o my righteousness." Let this be to our soul the voice of joy and gladness. Thus ma we rest in thy love and stay ourselves on th mighty God of Jacob, saying, "Thou ar our God and we will exalt thee! We wi praise thy name, for thy counsels of old ar faithfulness and truth." Thus would w bless thee while we live; we would prais thee whilst we have any being; and, afte this life, may we be admitted to dwell at th right hand, where there is fulness of joy an pleasures for evermore. We ask all for th dear Redeemer's sake; to whom with Thy self and the blessed Spirit be ascribed eter nal praises. Amen.

HYMN

For Wednesday Evening.

Father, I long, I faint to see
  The place of thine abode:
I'd leave thy earthly courts and flee
  Up to thy seat, my God.

Here I behold thy distant face,
  And 'tis a pleasing sight:
But to abide in thine embrace
  Is infinite delight.

I'd part with all the joys of sense,
  To gaze upon thy throne:
Pleasure springs fresh for ever thence,
  Unspeakable, unknown.

There all the heavenly hosts are seen,
  In shining ranks they move,
And drink immortal vigour in,
  With wonder and with love.

There at thy feet with awful fear
  Th' adoring armies fall;
With joy they shrink to nothing there
  Before the eternal All.

There I would vie with all the host
  In duty and in bliss;
While less than nothing I could boast,
  And vanity confess.

The more thy glories strike mine eyes,
  The humbler I shall lie:
Thus while I sink my joys shall rise
  Unmeasurably high.

PRAYER

For Wednesday Evening.

thou God of infinite goodness and love.
esire to adore and bless thee, not on

as altogether lovely in thine own transcendent excellencies and most glorious perfections; but also for thy wonders of mercy and bounty towards us. How unspeakable is thy goodness in making us in any degree capable of knowing and loving thee; than which the highest angels know no greater bliss. We adore thee, that thou hast not only given us capacities for doing so, but hast also laid upon us the greatest obligations to engage our hearts unto it.

Yet, alas, how cold and defective has been our love! In what estrangedness of heart from thee, our God, and enmity against thee, have we lived! O Lord, we have done foolishly and wickedly in forsaking thee, the fountain of living waters, and hewing out to ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. We have shut our hearts against thee our chief good; and preferred the trifles and vanities of this present world, and the gratifying our own foolish and hurtful lusts, above thy favour, which is better than life.

O most gracious God, mercifully pardon all our defects of love to thee, and all the excesses of it to earthly objects. Touch our hearts with such a powerful sense of thy loving-kindness, that we may experience

ronger desires after thee, greater delight
. thee, and may make better returns of
ve to thee.

O discover to us the vanity of all that
ould draw our hearts from thee. Reveal
ıyself to us as our life, our hope, our joy;
ıd may we more ardently long to appear
efore thee, and delight more and more in
e duties that bring us near to thee, and
lvance us in communion with thee. In-
ease our love to thy word, to the things
thy Spirit, and the means of grace. And
t us find more satisfaction and pleasure in
e light of thy countenance, than in all the
joyments of this life.

O let us not rest in thy gifts, forgetful of
ee, the bountiful giver of all good: but
r every cord of love draw us still nearer to
yself. Help us, O Lord, to manifest our
votion to thee by hating all iniquity,
eping thy commandments, and delighting
do thy will.

Guard us by thine almighty power, guide
by thine unerring wisdom, and so cleanse
by the perpetual inspiration of thy holy
pirit, that we may rejoice in all thy per-
tions. Under the trials and afflictions of
e, may we look unto thee and be light-
ed; and possess our souls with such an

abiding sense of thy mercy, that we may draw nigh to thee in every time of perplexity and trial, and so pass the days of our sojourning here in thy faith and fear, that at length we may attain to the possession of that peace which passeth all understanding. Thus may we be rooted and grounded in love, and through thy grace, keep ourselves in the love of God, abounding in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to thy praise and glory. Our Father, &c.

MEDITATION

For Thursday Morning.

THE CHRISTIAN CONQUEROR.

"And this is the victory that overcometh the "world, even our faith. Who is he that over-"cometh the world, but he that believeth that "Jesus is the Son of God?"—1 John v. 4. 5.

The real Christian is the true conqueror of the world. It is the world that obstructs our way to heaven, and is the great impediment to our entrance there. But he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God, be-

s that he gave himself for us, that
ıight deliver us from this present evil
l, and conduct us through it to heaven,
:o God, who is fully to be enjoyed there.
:hat so believes, by this faith overcomes
world. He feels that this world is an
ıy to his soul, to his holiness, to his
ıtion, and to his blessedness. For all
is in the world, the lust of the flesh,
ust of the eye, and the pride of life, is
ɔf the Father, but is of the world. He
it must be a great part of the Saviour's
:, and of his own salvation, to be re-
ıed and rescued from the pollution that
the world through lust. He sees in
.ife and conduct of the Lord Jesus on
h, that this world is to be renounced
overcome. He perceives that the Lord
ıs conquered the world, not for himself
, but also for his followers: and that
must study to be partakers of his vic
. "Be of good cheer, I have overcome
world." By the sufferings and death
he Lord Jesus he is mortified and cru-
d to the world. "God forbid that I
ıld glory, save in the cross of our Lord
ıs Christ, by whom the world is crucified
ıe, and I unto the world." By the re-
ection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

he is begotten to a lively hope of a blessed world above. He knows that the Saviour is *gone to heaven,* to prepare a place for all true believers. He knows that from thence his Saviour *will come again* to put an end to this world, to judge the inhabitants of it, and to receive his believers to his presence and glory. He is possessed with a spirit and disposition that cannot be satisfied with this world, that looks beyond it, and is still tending, striving, and pressing towards the world in heaven.

It is *in the Gospel* that we see the occasion and ground of the quarrel between the holy God and this rebellious world. It is *there* we meet with that sacred doctrine both spiritual and practical, which is altogether opposed to the tenour, the temper, and tendency of this world. It is *by that doctrine* that a spirit is communicated and diffused, which is superior and adverse to the spirit of the world. It is *there we see* that the Saviour himself is not of this world; that his kingdom was not, and is not so; that it must be separated from the world, and gathered out of it for heaven and for Him. *There we see* that the Saviour designed not this world for the inheritance and portion of his redeemed people. As

he is gone to heaven himself, so he assures them that he will prepare a place for their residence there, designing that they shall always dwell with him: and allowing them to believe that if in this life, and this world only, they had hope in him, they should indeed be miserable. *It is there* that the eternally blessed world is most clearly revealed and proposed to our affections and pursuits. *It is there* that we are furnished with the best arms and artillery against the assaults and attempts of the world. *It is there* we are taught how its artillery may be turned against itself; and its oppositions, encounters, and persecutions be made serviceable to our conquest of the world, and to our motion and ascent heavenwards. And *there* we are encouraged by a whole army and cloud of faithful soldiers, who have in their several generations, and the posts and stations appointed them, overcome the world, and won the crown.

It is only the Christian who is the true hero that vanquishes the world, rejoices in a universal victory, takes the kingdom of heaven by violence, and lays hold on eternal life. Who but the believer in Jesus Christ can thus overcome the world?

HYMN

For Thursday Morning.

Awake my zeal! awake my love!
To serve my Saviour here below;
In works which Saints in light above,
And Angels would delight to do.

Awake my charity! to feed
The hungry soul, to clothe the poor;
In heaven there are no sons of need,
There all these duties are no more.

The land of triumph is on high;
The land where foes no more shall rage;
Lord, may I conquer till I die,
And all the Christian warfare wage.

Subdue thy passions, O my soul!
Maintain the fight, thy work pursue;
Daily thy rising sins control,
And be thy victories ever new.

Let ev'ry passing hour confess,
That I the Lord, my Saviour, own:
And when my life and labour cease,
May I obtain the glorious crown!

PRAYER

For Thursday Morning.

O most high and holy God, who wilt be had in reverence of all them that are round

about thee, vouchsafe to sanctify us by thy Spirit; and enable us so to draw nigh unto thee in prayer, that thou mayest draw nigh unto us in the communications of thy love and mercy.

O grant us in a spirit of faith and adoption to call on thy name. We would come with holy liberty to the throne of thy grace, knowing that we have a gracious and all-powerful advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the Righteous; and rejoicing that through him are given to us exceeding great and precious promises. O, let us never lose the benefit of thy promises for the want of pleading them with thee. May our delight in drawing near to thee increase; may we walk before thee in the land of the living, and ever abide in the bonds of thy covenant.

May the Saviour be increasingly precious to us; and by that great love wherewith he hath loved us, may we be weaned more and more from the world which hated him and crucified him. As he overcame the world, so may we also overcome it. By faith in him may we obtain the victory; such a victory, that we may not again be entangled by its *alluring vanities*, encumbered by its cares, *or disquieted* by its sorrows.

Help us to live above the things that are seen and temporal, looking upon them with a holy indifference. May the eyes of our faith be ever fixed on those things which are not seen and eternal, remembering that we are not of this world, but are called to come out of it. And seeing we are designed for another and better state of being, may we seek those things which are above, and set our affections on them.

As followers of Christ crucified, may we fight the good fight of faith; may we lay hold on eternal life; and be animated by a well-founded hope that there is laid up for us a crown of life, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give us in the last great day.

We come to thee that we may obtain mercy to pardon, and grace to help us in every time of need. O excite us to, direct us in, and thoroughly furnish us for every good word and work. May we commit ourselves to thy grace, with a sincere resolution to submit in everything to thy governance, and through Christ strengthening us to do and suffer all thy will. If we are assaulted with temptations to sin, though we have often found our resistance weak and ineffectual, yet henceforward give us faith, that

we may not be foiled or overcome by them. Furnish us with the whole armour of God; that, by the power of his might we may be able to stand in the evil day. If we are burdened with affliction, let us not faint in the hour of adversity; but graciously impart unto us faith and strength equal to support us under all calamities. Whatever we lose, let us still find comfort in thee, and keep possession of hope and joy in God.

Grant us, we humbly beseech thee, the assurance of thy presence throughout our earthly pilgrimage; and when at length we shall be called to go up and possess the good land, and find we need a strength we never had before, oh may the great Captain of our salvation then shew us that death is a conquered enemy; may he cause us to triumph, and enable us to render eternal thanks unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

For Thursday Evening.

Through the day thy love has spar'd us,
  Now we lay us down to rest:
Through the silent watches guard us,
  Let no foe our peace molest;
Jesus, thou our guardian be,
Sweet it is to trust in thee.

Pilgrims here on earth, and strangers
  Dwelling in the midst of foes;
Us and ours preserve from dangers,
  In thy care may we repose:
And when life's short day is past
Rest with thee in heaven at last.

PRAYER

For Thursday Evening.

O Lord our God, we desire to come into thy holy presence pleading thine own gracious promise to pour out upon those who seek thee the Spirit of grace and supplication. While we present our petitions unto thee, we would remember that thou art in heaven, enthroned in thine own glory, dwelling amidst the praises of angels, and the spirits of the just made perfect. How great is thy condescension in humbling thyself to delight in their constant ascriptions of glory, honour, dominion, and power!

But thou hast in thine infinite compassion and goodness deigned to declare that thou hast a dwelling-place on earth, even every heart which is humble and contrite, and which trembleth at thy word. Graciously vouchsafe unto each of us such a disposition as thou wilt thus honour. May we come

before thee deeply sensible that we have fallen by our iniquities, and that in us dwelleth no good thing. We are depraved by nature, and defiled by transgression; and thou wouldest be most just in sending us where hope cannot come.

Yet banish us not from thy presence; take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but reveal thyself unto us, and let the light of thy countenance ever shine upon our souls. O Lord, who is a God like unto thee, pardoning iniquity, transgression and sin: because thou delightest in mercy, and retainest not thine anger for ever! Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but unto thy great name be all the glory.

We rejoice that thou hast in unspeakable mercy found a ransom for sinners, and satisfied offended justice. O may the blood of Jesus cleanse us from all our sins. Help us to lie low at the foot of the cross; and in the exercise of faith, to wash in the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. May we drink of the water of life, that our souls may never thirst; and eat of that bread from heaven which causeth the soul to live for ever.

Thou hast magnified thy love to us, in *that while* we were yet sinners Christ died

for us; may that love constrain us to give ourselves up unto thee. May we shew forth thy praise not only with our lips, but in our lives: conform us to thine image; may we take thy word not only as that on which we build our hopes of future blessedness, but also as the daily rule of our thoughts and actions. May we ever be governed by its principles, and obedient to its great commands.

We praise thy name for all the hopes thou hast given us of another world, and all the bounties of thy providence vouchsafed to us in this. We thank thee for food and raiment; for preservation from harm through the past day. Take us under thy care this night. Let thy mercies lead us up to thee the fountain in love and gratitude unfeigned. Help us to serve thee while we are here below; and, after this life, take our souls to dwell with thee for ever in heaven.

These mercies, and all things necessary for life and godliness, we earnestly supplicate for ourselves and all our dear relatives and friends in the name of our most blessed Redeemer and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord; who in compassion to our ignorance has taught us thus to call upon thee in be-

half of ourselves and all mankind, "Our Father," &c.

MEDITATION

For Friday Morning.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those "things which are above, where Christ sitteth on "the right hand of God. Set your affection on "things above, not on things on the earth. For "ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in "God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, "then shall ye also appear with him in glory."—Col. iii. 1—4.

We must seek *first* his kingdom: we must mind the concerns of another world more than this: we must make heaven our scope and aim; maintaining communion with the world above by faith, and hope, and holy love; and making it our constant care and business to secure our title to heavenly bliss. And the reason given is, because Christ sits at the right hand of God.

He who is our best friend, our head, is advanced to the highest dignity and honour in heaven; and is gone before to secure to us heavenly happiness. We therefore should seek and *secure* what he has purchased at *so vast an expense*, and about which he is

taking so much care. We must live such a life as Christ lived on earth, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.

To seek heavenly things, is to set our affections upon them; to love them, and enlarge our desires after them. Upon the wings of affection the heart soars upwards, and is carried forth towards spiritual and divine objects. We must acquaint ourselves with them, and esteem them above all other things; and lay out ourselves in preparation for the enjoyment of them. This is to be spiritually minded, and to seek and desire a better country, that is an heavenly one.

Let us remember that we are buried with Christ, and planted in the likeness of his death. Every Christian is crucified unto the world, and the world is crucified unto him. And, surely, if we are dead to the earth, and have renounced it as our happiness, we shall not set our affections upon it, and seek it. Our true life lies in the other world; ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. The new man is born and nourished from above, and the perfection of his life is reserved for that state. It is hid with Christ; not hid from us only in point of secresy, but hid for us in security.

The life of a Christian is hid with Christ: "Because I live, ye shall live also." Christ is at present him whom we have not seen; but this is our comfort, that our life is hid with him, laid up safe with him. If we can say, him having not seen we love; we may also take the comfort of a happiness out of sight, and reserved in heaven for us.

If we live a life of Christian purity and devotion now; when Christ who is our life shall appear, we also shall appear with him in glory. Christ is the believer's life; "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:" He is the principle and end of the Christian's life: he lives in us by his Spirit, and we live in him in all we do: "to me to live is Christ."

Christ will appear again in his Father's glory, in his own glory, and with his holy angels. We shall then appear with him in glory. It will be *his* glory to have his redeemed with him, and it will be *theirs* to come with him, and be with him for ever! At the second coming of Christ there will be a general meeting of all the saints; and they, whose life is now hid with Christ, shall then appear with Christ in that glory which he himself enjoys. Do we look for such a happiness as that? Should we not then se'

our affections upon that world, and live above this? Our head is there, our home is there, our treasure is there, and we hope to be there for ever.

HYMN

For Friday Morning.

Almighty Saviour, set us free
From sin's vile state of slavery;
And as our treasure is above,
Be there our thoughts, be there our love.

But oft, alas! too well we know,
Our thoughts, our love, are fix'd below:
In every lifeless prayer we find
The heart unmoved, the absent mind.

Lord, draw our best affections hence,
Above this world of sin and sense;
Cause them to soar above the skies,
And rest not till to heaven they rise.

PRAYER

For Friday Morning.

O most merciful and blessed God, who hast commanded us to make known our requests unto thee by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; assist us, we be-

seech thee, to draw nigh to thee with lively thankfulness for thy holy word, which opens to us such glorious prospects, and sets before us thy commandments, in keeping of which there is great reward.

We bless thee for the revelation of a Saviour, and desire to exalt his name above every name. We thank thee that, having obtained eternal redemption for us, he is entered with his own blood into the holy place; and now sits upon the throne of thy Majesty in the highest heavens, adored by the angelic hosts, and attended by an innumerable company of the redeemed, who continually surround him singing anthems to his praise, and casting their crowns at his feet.

We bless thee that he ever appears in the presence of God as the great High-priest of our profession, to intercede for all who come unto thee by him; that he is now preparing a place for all his followers, and will come again to receive them to himself, to behold and partake his glory. O, may the contemplation of the joy into which he is entered, and the power with which he is girded, so influence our minds, that we also by faith may be raised up and made to sit *together* with him in heavenly places. *Help us to contemplate* the glory of Christ

that we are risen with Christ.
ever to exercise sincerity in this grea
and never to rest satisfied until we
peal to thee and say, "Whom have w
ven but thee? and there is none up
we desire besides thee;" "Thou kn
things, thou knowest that we lov
Do thou, O Lord, who searchest t
and triest the reins, lead us, we
thee, in the way everlasting.

Make us jealous over ourselve
godly jealousy, lest we should be
to earth. Raise our affections to
and help us to esteem him as "
among ten thousand and altogether

Help us to accept of salvation in

all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the world.

May we give our whole selves unto thee, presenting our bodies and souls as a living sacrifice, which is our reasonable service. Help us to resign ourselves to the sanctifying power of thy Spirit, to the commanding power of thy law, to the disposing power of thy providence. We have in times past too much resisted the Holy Spirit, and striven against him when he has striven with us. Henceforward may we yield to his influences; let his might quell our corruptions, and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. May we have respect unto all thy commandments, and resolve that what the Lord shall say unto us that will we do.

Cause us, heavenly Father, ever cheerfully to submit all our affairs to thy divine disposal, to be directed and determined by thine unerring wisdom. Do with us as seemeth good in thy sight; let us not lean to our own understanding; but work thy will in us, and for us, and by us. Thus, O Lord, fit us for life or for death; that so, when Christ who is our life shall appear, we also may appear with him in glory. *Amen.*

HYMN

For Friday Evening.

True religion is the same
Under every age and name:
All who feel its power will own
They are sav'd by grace alone.

Very different they may be;
Yet in this they all agree;
That their hearts are full of sin,
And their natures all unclean.

Saints have been in every age
Guided by the sacred page;
And the poorest Christian feels
What the word of God reveals.

Yes, they would with us confess
Christ the Lord our righteousness;
By believing in his name
They to heavenly glory came.

We may well exalt him thus;
He is all in all to us;
If he wash us in his blood,
He will bring us home to God.

Oh that all of us may meet,
In his righteousness complete,
With the ransom'd tribes above,
There to sing redeeming love!

PRAYER

For Friday Evening.

O Almighty and most gracious God, those who know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou hast never failed them that seek thee through thy beloved Son. Help us, we pray thee, at this time to know from our own experience that thou art gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. May this revelation of thyself encourage us to draw near to thee, though we have often broken thy laws and transgressed thy commands, and deserve only that thou shouldest hide thy face from us, and shut up thy loving-kindness in displeasure.

Our evil hearts of unbelief are continually apt to start aside like a broken bow; we are prone to forget thee our only defence, and to trust in our own strength, though we have often found it to be perfect weakness. Merciful Father, hold thou us up with thine almighty arm, then shall we be able to maintain the good fight of faith, and at length be more than conquerors through him that hath loved us.

Enable us to confess that Jesus Christ is *Lord, and own* ourselves his willing subjects

May we put ourselves under his go
ment, under the influences of his grace
the guidance of his Holy Spirit. M
seriously attend to the great things
belong to our everlasting peace and
fare.

Enable us to exercise an unwavering
in Christ. Thou hast declared thysel
pleased in the Son of thy love: O he
to commit our souls into his almighty
tection, believing that he is able to
that which we commit unto him agains
day. Then may we, being purified fr
evil conscience by the blood of Jesus
clothed with the robe of his justifying
teousness, be admitted to sit down a
marriage supper of the Lamb.

And looking for and hastening to th
and glory set before us, may we run
patience the race of godliness; may w
sign our whole selves, body, soul, and
unto thee, and be determined that in
strength we will serve thee faithfully
walk closely with thee in all manner of
dience.

We entreat thee, O God, in an esp
manner to bless our friends, visit them
thy favour, and shew unto them the p
life. Let those that know thee rejoi

be glad in thee; and in thy mercy visit those who know and love thee not. Thou art he who openeth, and no man shutteth: O speak thou unto their souls, and open their hearts to receive the testimony thou hast given of thy Son. Grant that we may all be found savingly united to Christ; that so we may be interested in the propitiation he has made for sin, and be accepted before thee at thy coming.

O Lord, pardon, and hear, and bless, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour; to whom with thee, O Father, and the blessed Spirit, be equal and never-ending praises. Amen.

MEDITATION

For Saturday Morning.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

"The love of Christ, which passeth knowledge."—Eph. iii. 19.

The love of Christ! But where shall we begin, and where shall we find an end? With holy wonder and adoration we exclaim, O the breadth, the length, the depth, the height of that love in which all creation is *swallowed up!* O the boundless extent of

that power, wisdom, righteousness, and mercy, which finite knowledge can neither comprehend nor express! The angelic choir proclaimed the high praises of the infinite Jehovah, all whose perfections are alike unlimited, when they sung, "Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men." But we must learn this spiritual song on the summit of *Calvary*. *There*, beholding the Creator of Angels hanging upon the accursed tree, even as the suffering Lamb of the sin offering, we understand the divine declaration, "They crucified the Lord of glory." *There we perceive* wisdom, holiness, and love united, emanating from one centre. The Creator becoming man, in order to make his fallen creatures again the objects of that everlasting friendship which was lost in our first head, but restored by the Lord from heaven. *There we see* the ransom paid for miserable insolvent debtors; the law, the impress of the divine holiness, receiving full satisfaction; the requisitions of an infinitely righteous Judge seeking and obtaining complete and *sufficient* fulfilment in the perfect, all-sur*passing* obedience of the Lamb. Whilst at *the* exclamation, "It is *finished*!" hell trem*bled;* Satan stood dismayed; the rocks and

nountains rent; the dead were raised; the veil of the temple was divided in ı! *There we behold* the mystery of the ɜr's justification, his regeneration and tification; in the blood-shedding of ınuel, his burial, resurrection, ascen- and his promised gift of the Holy it. O the depth of the riches both of visdom and knowledge of God! Well the Scriptures say, that to Jesus st give all the prophets witness; since lone is the eternal Rock of Ages, ded upon which the soul obtains re- on of sin, and a title to everlasting

hat holy shame must cover our face ı reflecting on what have been *our re-* *for such loving-kindness.* When we ld ourselves *in this light,* we dare not ıp our head! Blessed be God, there is ficient source of comfort in the bound- ɔcean of divine love, which has neither ɔm nor shore. Yet must our soul be ı grieved and wounded by our ingrati- , when we ask ourselves, where is that ɜd and aversion to sin? Where is that towards Christ and his people? Where following after holiness and every other *ıe which* is seen brightly shining in

many of his children? Not that they are a ground of confidence; O no! this is quite beyond ourselves. Oh that being in Christ Jesus, who has loved all his people with everlasting love, we could walk more humbly before him and with him. Oh to look more habitually into the garden of Gethsemene, and the awful scene of bleeding Calvary; then should we wait in a lowly posture at the feet of the great Teacher, and so would this love which passeth knowledge be abundantly shed abroad in our hearts.

HYMN

For Saturday Morning.

Thanks be unto God for the gift,
  Th' unspeakable gift of his love!
Come sinners, let gratitude lift
  Our joyful affections above!
This gift ev'ry other outweighs;
  Its value we cannot conceive;
The Gospel its riches displays,
  And blessed are they that believe.

How wretched and lost was our case,
  By nature and practice undone!
To save us, oh wonder of grace,
  The Father withheld not his Son!

He gave Him, the just for the vile,
  To die that we rebels might live:
In Him he is pleased to smile,
  And faithful and just to forgive.

Yet when we were enemies doom'd
  To regions of guilt and despair,
The Saviour our nature assumed,
  Himself our infirmities bare.
He sav'd us from sin and from hell,
  When lost and just ready to die;
And rais'd us with princes to dwell
  In mansions of glory on high.

What tongue can his mercy unfold!
  Its height and its depth are unknown;
Yet sweetly its worth we behold
  Reveal'd by his Spirit alone.
But more shall its glories employ
  Our praise in his temple above;
While ever beholding with joy
  Th' unspeakable gift of his love.

PRAYER

For Saturday Morning.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, eaven and earth are full of the majesty of hy *glory! All* thy creatures praise thee, *id thy saints* bless thee: and well ma *ey bless thee* who know thy name, ar

the riches of thy grace displayed in Jes Christ thy well-beloved Son. Thanks l unto God for his unspeakable gift! Ador be thy name, O Lord, that thou didst n spare thine own Son, but freely gave hi up for us all.

And blessed be thy name, O Lord Jes Christ, that thou didst not spare thine ow self, but didst behold us in our lost estat and fly to our relief. With lively than fulness would we remember thy grace wh though thou wast rich, yet for our sak didst become poor, that we through thy p verty might be made rich.

Oh! what shall we render unto the Lo for all his benefits? May we take the cu of salvation, and call upon the name of tl Lord. May we receive Christ Jesus as s forth in the Gospel; as our Prophet, Prie and King. May he be made of God un us wisdom, and righteousness, and sancti cation, and redemption.

May we esteem as more precious than r bies the unspeakable blessings of his grac and may our hearts be filled with wond and gratitude at the exceeding greatness his love. From his fulness may we all r ceive grace for grace. Bought with such price, may we be anxious to glorify thee

Lord, with our bodies and spirits, which are doubly thine; thine by redemption as well as by creation. Henceforward may they be thine also by a full and unreserved consecration of ourselves to thy service and glory. Constrained by such love may we be willing to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow our Redeemer. What things were gain to us, them may we count loss for Christ; yea doubtless may we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; that we may win Christ and be found in him.

We rejoice that he who, while here below, wept and died for sinners is now ascended up on high, and exalted on thy right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour. We adore thee, that his love is still the same now that he is entered into heaven as our great forerunner. Thither may our most ardent affections ever ascend; thither may our thoughts continually rise in adoring contemplation of the glory with which he is crowned. And oh may we all be amongst the happy number of those who will at last behold thy face with exceeding joy.

With shame, O Lord, would we confess, that we have been so weak and defective in our love to thee; so low in our thoughts

of thee, so languid in our desires towar thee, so unsteady in our resolutions to ser thee. O enable us henceforth to love th better, and fit us to be where love shall l made perfect. There may we drink large of the rivers of joy, and fully partake of tl blessings of redeeming grace. We ask s for the Redeemer's sake, who ever liveth make intercession for us, and is able to sa to the uttermost all that come unto God l him. Amen.

HYMN

For Saturday Evening.

With thy counsel thou shalt guide me,
  O thou Shepherd of the flock!
Safe from every tempest hide me,
  Fix'd upon the living rock.
Poor and needy, oh! receive me;
  Be thy rod my staff and stay;
And that blessed portion give me,
  Which no power can take away.

Whether love and mercy shining
  Cheer my path with sacred light,
Or my heavenly sun declining
  Spread around the shades of night;

Still my faith on thee reposing,
  Let thine arm conduct me through,
Till in death the warfare closing,
  I shall prove thy promise true.

Never leave me nor forsake me;
  More and more reveal thy love;
Till thou shalt a pillar make me
  In the house of God above.
There the song of grace abounding
  Freely round thy throne shall rise,
And thy praise for ever sounding
  Fill thy temple in the skies.

PRAYER

For Saturday Evening.

O Thou, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we thank thee that yet thou preservest us in life; and that at the close of another week we bow at thy footstool, to offer to thee the tribute of our thanks, and to plead with thee for a renewal of thy mercies. May thy Spirit help our infirmities, and teach us how to pray.

What are we, O Lord, that thou hast brought us hitherto! How many have been called to thy bar during the week which is *now closing!* O keep us constantly in mind

that to us the period may not be far distant when we too may be required to give up our stewardship, and to render an account of the improvement we have made of our precious time, and the various talents with which thou hast entrusted us.

When the Judge of all the earth shall come upon the clouds of his glory, and every eye shall see him, Oh then may we not be ashamed before him at his coming. Though we have too much reason to confess, that in times past we have provoked thee, and been enemies to thee in our minds by wicked works; yet may it then be found, that we are reconciled to God by the blood of the cross; and through Christ Jesus, may we be presented holy, and unblameable, and unreprovable in thy sight.

We bless thee that thou hast manifested thy love towards us in sending thine only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. O give us to believe this blessed record thou hast given us of thy Son. We would believe; O Lord, help our unbelief. Faith is not of ourselves; it is *the* gift of God. Thou alone art the au*thor*, and thou alone art the finisher of it. *Lord* increase our faith. Fulfil the work of *faith* with power; shed abroad thy love

our hearts, so shall we be vitally united to Christ our living head.

If hitherto we have not known thee nor loved thee, O hasten with thine Holy Spirit, and breathe into our souls the breath of life. May we look unto the Saviour, and beneath the shadow of his cross may our hearts of stone be turned to flesh.

Spare us, we pray thee, to enter on the morrow into thy courts. May our waking thoughts be of thee; and let us welcome thy day as a day of rest from sin and every worldly care. Prepare us for the solemnities of the Sabbath, and fit us for communion with thee. Help us to leave the world, and the things of the world, and with our loins girded and our lamps burning to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Teach thy servants who shall minister, and strengthen them with all might by thy Holy Spirit: endue them with fidelity, wisdom, and zeal. Do thou speak unto our souls a word in due season; and may we receive the truth not as the word of a dying man, but as the word of the living God. Make it effectual to humble the proud, to awaken the careless, to melt the hardened, to comfort the distressed, and to sanctify th unholy. At the close of the day may the

be joy in heaven over many a repenting sinner. And may each of us, O heavenly Father, be of that happy number who have believed thy report.

Now take us, we beseech thee, into thy care: be to us a God, and may we be to thee a people. May all who are near and dear to us be bound up together with those who shall be gathered into the heavenly garner, and rise to glory, honour, and immortality, through him that hath loved us, and given himself for us. Amen.

SACRAMENTAL EXERCISES.

The Prayer of one going to the Lord's Table.

O thou God of ordinances, I thank thee for the covenant of thy grace, and the appointed seals of it. I desire to give myself to thee, but fear I should approach to holy things unworthily. Hast not thou filled me with reverence for this command of my dying Saviour, with this desire of communion with thee, and with this willingness to be wholly thine? Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. Am I indulging any secret sin? Do I allow myself in the neglect of any holy precept? Let me not wrong my soul by a sinful absence from thy table. Let thy word, thy providence, and thy Spirit concur to make my way plain before me. Scatter my doubts. Give me stronger faith and love. O that the views of a crucified Saviour may deeply impress my mind, and a sense of his dying love constrain me to give up myself to him *more solemnly* than I have ever yet done

Lord, show me thy covenant, and help me to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I believe; Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and increase my faith. Kindle my repentance, and strike this rocky heart that it may bleed at the remembrance of my past follies; and confirm my resolutions, that I may have nothing more to do with idols. I abhor myself that I love my God, my Saviour, no better. Let that spark become a flame; let that flame be strong and steady, and the proofs of it appear in my holy obedience. O shed abroad thy love in my heart, by the Holy Spirit given unto me! Breathe upon this earthly clod, and it shall become warm. Draw me, and I shall run after thee. I had rather love thee than have all the treasures on earth. O my God, let me not be cold and lifeless at that solemnity, where I am to commemorate the most glorious love that was ever known or heard of! Be with my spirit, help my infirmities, accept me, and unite my heart to thee in everlasting bonds, through my Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER

BEFORE A COMMUNION.

Worthy art thou, O Lord, to receive blessing, and honour, and glory, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. I adore thee as the God of my life, and the length of my days; but above all, as the God of salvation, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom I draw near to a throne of grace.

I bless thee for the new covenant which is ratified by the shedding of Christ's blood, and that I am invited this day to receive the seals of that covenant. Do thou graciously open the fountain of life, for the refreshment of my thirsty soul: may I by faith behold Christ crucified set forth before me, and feed on him to my spiritual growth in grace. Give me, I beseech thee, clearer views of the evil of sin, and of the height and breadth of the love of Christ, that passeth knowledge. Grant, O Lord, that I may be enabled to eat of that bread as the memorial of the body of Christ, broken *for me;* and to drink of that cup, as the

memorial of the blood of Christ, shed for the remission of sins. There may I glory in the cross of Christ, in him that was crucified upon it, as my only Lord and Saviour. There may I meditate on thine inestimable love, O Father of mercies, in the gift of thine only begotten Son, and on his astonishing love and grace, till the fire of sacred love shall burn within me; till out of the abundance of my heart my tongue break forth in strains of lively thanksgiving, and my mouth praise thee with joyful lips: till, being constrained by this love, I most solemnly resolve and engage to live henceforth, not to myself, but to him that died for me and rose again! Here at Emanuel's cross may I learn self-denial, deadness to the world, patience, meekness, forgiveness, and humility, looking unto him who endured the cross, and despised the shame. May I never be weary and faint in my mind; but while I smite on my breast and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner," I would utter my penitent confessions with lively faith and hope. O give me true repentance, and *living* faith: teach me to count all things *but* loss, that I may win Christ, and partake *of his* salvation.

I believe, Lord, that thou art gone

high, having led captivity captive. At this feast of love, let me receive of the fruits and benefits of this glorious victory; and, while I receive the outward and visible sign, let my soul delightfully feel the inward and spiritual grace.

Accept, I beseech thee, O Lord, of the fresh surrender and dedication which I make of myself (and family) to thee this morning. I am no longer my own; but thine. Thou hast made me, thou hast continually watched over and preserved me; and thou hast bought me with a price, even the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. O thou that art the beginner and finisher of every good work, be pleased to assist my endeavours, to withdraw my mind more and more from these sensible things. Shed abroad thy love in my heart; may I sit under thy shadow with delight; and so hunger and thirst after the bread and water of life, that my soul may be satisfied; that I may hunger no more for the bread that perisheth; that I may thirst no more for the cisterns that yield no water; but for those rivers of pleasure that are at thy right hand for evermore.

A SACRAMENTAL HYMN.

Jesus invites his saints
  To meet around his board:
Here pardon'd rebels sit and hold
  Communion with their Lord.

For food he gave his flesh;
  He bids us drink his blood:
Amazing favour, matchless grace
  Of our descending God!

This holy bread and wine
  Maintain our fainting breath,
By union with our living Lord,
  And int'rest in his death.

Our heavenly Father calls
  Christ and his members one:
We, the young children of his love,
  And he, the firstborn Son.

We are but several parts
  Of the same broken bread:
One body hath its sev'ral limbs,
  But Jesus is the head.

Let all our pow'rs be join'd
  His glorious name to raise:
Pleasure and love fill every mind;
  And every voice be praise.

A devotional Exercise at the Lord's Table.

O matchless bounty of the eternal God! What a gift is this! And to what unworthy sinners! And will God stoop so low to man, and come so near him? Will he thus reconcile his worthless enemies? Will he freely pardon all that I have done, and take me into his family and love, and feed me with the flesh and blood of his Son? I believe; Lord, help my unbelief; I humbly and thankfully accept thy gifts! Open thou my heart, that I may yet more joyfully and more thankfully accept them. Behold, Lord, a wretch that needeth all this mercy! And, as it is the offer of thy grace and covenant, my soul gladly takes thee for my God and Father, for my Saviour and my Sanctifier. And here I give up myself to thee, as thy created, redeemed, and regenerated child; to be saved and sanctified by thee; to be loved by thee, and to love thee for ever. O seal this covenant by thy Spirit, and let me be entirely and for ever thine!

THE MEMORIAL OF OUR ABSENT LORD.

Jesus is gone above the skies,
  Where our weak senses reach him not:
And carnal objects court our eyes,
  To thrust our Saviour from our thought.

He knows what wand'ring hearts we have,
  Apt to forget his lovely face:
And to refresh our minds he gave
  These kind memorials of his grace.

The Lord of life this table spread,
  With his own flesh and dying blood,
We on the rich provision feed,
  And taste the wine, and bless our God.

Let sinful sweets be all forgot,
  And earth grow less in our esteem;
Christ and his love fill every thought,
  And faith and hope be fix'd on him.

While he is absent from our sight,
  'Tis to prepare our souls a place;
That we may dwell in heavenly light,
  And live for ever near his face.

Our eyes look upwards to the hills,
  Whence our returning Lord shall come:
We wait thy chariot's awful wheels,
  To fetch our longing spirits home.

MEDITATION

AFTER A COMMUNION.

O what a privilege is the Lord's supper hen it is the means of communion with the on, and with his Father, through the Spirit! /hat an honour is it to be admitted to a ast instituted by the Lamb of God, and r the enjoyment of the love of God! What blessing is it to sit down now to the marage supper of the Lamb; and to partake y faith of its spiritual realities and delights! here is nothing beyond this upon earth; nd it has sometimes been to the believing eceiver a foretaste of heaven. Yes, blessed e God, it has been even to thee, O my oul, unworthy as thou art of one crumb rom the master's table, a feast of fat things, f wines kept; even of fat things, full of narrow; of wines kept and well refined. And when thou hast not been so highly easted, yet thou hast enjoyed solid communion. Partaking of this bread and wine, ccording to the Lord's institution, and depending on the Lord's promise, thou hast een fed and nourished at his table. The irtue *of his Spirit* has been put forth i *y heart; and* by faith thou hast as tru *ten the flesh* and drunk the blood of

Son of man, as thou didst eat the bread and drink the wine. It was strictly speaking a communion; being united to Christ thou wast a partaker of Christ, and hadst a fellowship with him in his life and death. O let me pray for more of this; and beg of the Holy Spirit to increase my communion with Jesus, that I may live more and more in him and on him; and thereby enjoy more of the love of my heavenly Father. Let me plead and expect the fulfilment of his gracious promise, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."—John vi. 56, 57.

PRAYER

AFTER A COMMUNION.

Glory be to thee, O Lord our God, that in our extreme need of a Redeemer, thou hast made such a gracious provision for our souls: that thou hast given thy beloved Son to die for our sins, and to save us, after we had destroyed ourselves. Blessed be thy name, that he who offered up himself upon the cross for us, is pleased to offer himself

at his table *to* us. There have I sat down under his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. O how infinitely indebted am I to thy mercy, that thou callest me to this sweet heavenly entertainment; which thou hast purchased and provided for us at so great a price! O make me more sensible of thy love, and more thankful for its blessed effects. Let me now find the happy fruits of strength and refreshment to my soul: even strength against all the temptations that would pluck me out of thy hands; and refreshment that may render all the pleasures of sin distasteful to me, and make it my meat and drink to do the will of my heavenly Father. Let nothing take from me the savour I have had of heavenly things. Let me not forsake the Lord of love, who has been so good and gracious to my soul. Other lords beside thee have had dominion over me, but, henceforth, by thee only may I make mention of thy name. Let me never more take up arms against my heavenly Sovereign, to whom now again I have vowed allegiance. O let me join myself to thee, my Lord, in a perpetual covenant, that shall never be forgotten. Thou art the best of all *lords*, who rulest us only that thou mayest *bless us*. O break all ties that detain me

a reasonable, holy, and lively sacri
thee. Be thou exalted in thine own
so will we sing and praise thy pow
and continue me in thy faith, and
love to my life's end. I beseech
accept this my bounden duty and
not weighing my merits, but pard
offences, for the sake of Jesus C
Lord, who loved us, and gave hi
us: for whom, and to whom, with th
self, and the Holy Spirit, be all th
praise, and honour and glory asc
me and thy whole church, now and
more. Amen.

Paraphrase on the 23rd Psalm

Why art thou disquieted within me?"
he Lord is my Shepherd; The Lord Je-
vah my creator, and the world's creator;
that "the earth is the Lord's and the
lness thereof; the world, and all that
vell therein." *The Lord God omnipotent,*
who does what he pleases, both in heaven
ıd on earth: who can open deep rivers in
gh places, and fountains in the midst of
ılleys; who can make the wilderness a
ɔol of water, and the dry land springs of
ıter;" and "cause all things to work to-
ɜther for the good of those who love him."
he Lord Jesus, my Saviour, my friend, my
der brother, bone of my bone, and flesh
my flesh; and who, therefore, can be
uched with the feeling of my infirmities:
ıo knows what things I stand in need of,
ıd will not suffer me to be tried above
hat he will enable me to bear.

The Lord is my Shepherd. Blessed Sa-
our, thou art called by various names, all
which display great condescension and
ɔodness; but none of the characters thou
ıst assumed is expressive of more tender
fection, and watchful care, than that of a
ıepherd; and none of them hast thou more
·aciously fulfilled. How infinitely hast
ɔu surpassed the best shepherd that ever

existed. Other shepherds have been remarkable for looking diligently to the state of their flocks, providing for their proper pasture, taking care that none of them went astray, and defending them against beasts of prey. But when was it ever known that a shepherd laid down his life for his sheep? and yet *this* has the Lord my Shepherd done.

I shall not want. I *cannot* want, if he undertake for my supply. I may indeed want health; or I may want wealth; or I may want friends. I may want a thousand things, which others may think, or which I myself may be so far mistaken as to think necessary for my happiness. But my faithful and infinitely wise Shepherd best knows what I want. He may see a change of pasture (though seemingly from good to bad) advantageous. He may see I want medicine, when I may think I want cordials. He may seel want humbling, when I may think Iwan consolation. But I will comfort myself with this, what I really want I shall assuredly have.

Ver. 2d. *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.* And are not present mercies sufficient pledges of future supplies? I have

all things richly to enjoy, both for life and godliness. And it is the peculiarity of gospel blessings that they do not perish in the using. The waters of the sanctuary are living waters. The "river, the streams whereof make glad the city of our God," depends not on creature sources for its supply. It rises in heaven; it springs immediately from the throne of God; and is fed from the everflowing and overflowing fountain of grace and glory. Other pastures may be eaten bare, or scorched up with drought; but the pastures where Christ leads his flocks are covered with perpetual verdure, and afford the richest entertainment to starving souls.

Ver. 3d. *He restoreth my soul.* Thanks be to my ever faithful guide and guardian! He ordereth my steps, and pondereth all my goings; and, by the most endearing cords of love, hath bound me fast to the horns of the altar. How frequently, how solemnly (and I would hope sincerely), have I renewed those bonds, and entered into fresh engagements, that though all men should forsake him, yet would not I! And when I have been at his table feasting on his smiles, tasting that loving-kindness that *is better* than life, and beholding the glory

of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, I have thought it absolutely impossible that I should ever lose sight of him; that my heart should ever wander from him. I then thought, and resolved, that my eye should be ever towards the Lord, and that I would forsake houses and lands, and riches and pleasures, and everything that would intercept between my soul and my Saviour. But alas! Oh how am I ashamed and grieved at the remembrance of my sad declensions! Such a time, and such a time alas, if I were to reckon up all the times when I turned away from the Lord, where should I begin, and where should I end? It would be only a painful recital of the greatest part of my life. It were much easier to reckon up the days wherein I walked humbly with my God, than those wherein I walked after the ways of my own heart. But still *the Lord is my Shepherd. He restoreth my soul.* Sometimes he draws me by a mercy, sometimes he drives me back with the rod: sometimes he looks me into penitence and tears, as he did Peter; sometimes he *chastens* me into thoughtfulness. He leadeth me in the paths *of righteousness.* If it were not for that I should perish. For his name's sake. He has

undertaken and promised for me. And for his name's sake he will not suffer me to draw back unto perdition. He will keep me, therefore, from falling; or restore me when I do fall; and preserve me, by his mighty power, through faith unto salvation.

HYMN.

Seeking the pastures of Christ.—Cant. i. 7, 8.

Thou whom my soul admires above
All earthly joy, all earthly love;
Tell me, dear Shepherd, let me know,
Where do thy sweetest pastures grow?

Where is the shadow of that rock
That from the sun defends thy flock?
Fain would I feed among thy sheep,
Among them rest, among them sleep.

Why should thy bride appear like one
That turns aside to paths unknown?
My constant feet would never rove,
Would never seek another love.

The footsteps of thy flock I see;
Thy sweetest pastures rich and free:
A wondrous feast thy love prepares,
Bought with thy wounds, and groans, and tears.

His dearest flesh he gives for food,
And bids me drink his precious blood.
Here to these hills my soul shall come,
Till my beloved leads me home.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

For a Family under Affliction.

O thou infinitely great and glorious God! thou killest and makest alive; thou woundest and thou healest; thou bringest down to the grave and bringest back again. Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay thine hand or say unto thee, "What doest thou?" Yet righteous art thou in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Even when thou afflictest and causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon us, it is that we may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. And, O our God! though thou hast now visited our house with sickness, and art calling us to humiliation for our sins; yet we would still speak good of thy name, and love and bless thee. We desire in the midst of judgment to remember thy mercies. How long has each of our family lain down and risen up, gone out and come in, in health, in strength, and in peace! How long has the candle of the Lord shone upon us without interms-

sion! For these multiplied favours, blessed be thy name, O most gracious God! And shall we receive so much good at thy hand, and shall we not receive evil? The cup which our heavenly Father hath given us, shall we not drink it? We humbly take it from thine hands, O our God, in a full persuasion of thy fatherly love. We desire to resign all our thoughts and desires unto thee. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be thy name that thou hast continued so long the enjoyments thou now callest us to resign: and blessed be thy name, if, by resigning our will to thine, we can testify our faith in thee and affection to thee. We have nothing too great or too dear to resign to thee, from whose bountiful hand we have received our all. O that no repining thought may arise in our hearts to disorder or discompose our duty to thee, or towards our neighbour: but help us rather to think wherein we have offended thee; and wherein we have done iniquity, to do so no more. Let us place our affections more steadfastly on things above, and lay up our treasure and hope in heaven, where our "life is hid with Christ in God." We thank thee, O Father of

mercies, that thou hast given us such everlasting consolation through thy grace in Christ Jesus. We will praise thy name for ever, for those exceeding great and precious promises which are our support and comfort in all the troubles of this life. Increase our faith, strengthen and confirm our hope, and raise up our spirits continually to that blessed place where Jesus is, that we may rejoice in hope of that immortal life where all tears shall be wiped away from our eyes; where sighing and sorrow shall never enter; and where, through the riches of divine grace, we hope to follow those who are now, through faith and patience, inheriting the promises; and where we hope to join together in praising that wise and merciful Providence, which, by ways most contrary to our desires, brought us to endless and undisturbed bliss.

Keep us, O our God, in a humble, quiet, and dutiful submission to thee, waiting for that peaceful and joyful repose in the eternal rest which thou hast prepared for thy people through thy mercies in Christ Jesus; by whom all glory, honour, love, and obedience be rendered to thee, both now and for ever. Amen.

For a Family under heavy Affliction.

O thou wise and merciful Governor of the world! we have often said, Thy will be done; and now thy will is painful to us. But shall we on that account unsay what we have so often said? God forbid! We come rather to lay ourselves down at thy feet, and to declare our full and free submission to all thy sacred pleasure! O Lord, thou art just and righteous in all! We acknowledge in thy presence that we have deserved this, and ten thousand times more; we acknowledge that it is of thy mercy that we are not consumed; that the least degree of comfort yet remains. But shall we speak to thee only as our judge? O Lord, thou hast taught us a tenderer name: thou condescendest to call thyself our Father, and to speak of correction as the effects of thy love. O welcome, welcome those afflictions, which are the tokens of thy parental affection; the marks of our adoption into thy family. Thou knowest what discipline we need. Thou seest, O Lord, that folly which there is in the hearts of thy poor froward and thoughtless children; and knowest what rods and what strokes are needful to drive it away. We would, therefore, be in subjection to thee and live. We would be

thy strokes, not merely because we cannot resist them; but because we love and trust in thee. We would sweetly acquiesce and rest in thy will, as well as stoop to it, and say, "Good is the word of the Lord." Yea, Lord, we will praise thee, that thou art thus kindly training us up for glory. The cup which our heavenly Father puts into our hands, shall we not drink it? By thine assistance and support we will. Only be pleased, O Lord, to stand by us, and sometimes to grant us a favourable look in the midst of our sufferings; and support our souls by thy consolations. However severe this night of affliction may seem, if thou sayest, "Let there be light," there shall be light. But we are more concerned that our afflictions may be sanctified, than that they may be removed. Number us, O God, among the happy persons whom, while thou chastenest, thou teachest out of thy law! Shew us, we beseech thee, wherefore thou contendest with us; and purify us by the fire that is so painful to us, while we are passing through it! Dost thou not chasten thy children for this very end, that they may be partakers of thy holiness? Thou knowest, O God, it is this our souls are breathing after. We are partakers every moment.

of thy bounty, of thy gospel; and we hope, in some measure, partakers of the grace of it operating on our hearts. O may it operate more and more, that we may largely partake of thine holiness too; that we may come nearer and nearer in the temper of our minds to thee, O blessed God! Let our souls be melted in the furnace, if we may but thereby be made fit for being delivered into the mould of thy gospel, and bearing thy bright and amiable image for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A FAMILY,

When any member of it is sick; to be used either Morning or Evening.

Most great and glorious God; thou art the maker, and sovereign Lord of all! Thou killest and thou makest alive; thou woundest and thou healest; thou bringest down to the gates of the grave, and thou raisest up again! And thou dost according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among all the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay thine hand, or say unto thee, "What doest thou?"

Yet righteous art thou in all thy ways, holy in all thy works, and good in all the dispensations of thy providence towards th

children of men; even in those which are afflictive, and, for the present, not joyous, but grievous!

We believe that thou dost never willingly afflict or grieve the children of men; but that it is only if need be, that we, or any belonging to us, are at any time in heaviness through trials and distresses!

Although, therefore, thou hast now visited our family with sickness; and we are humbling ourselves with thy mighty hand; yet we would still adore, and love, and bless thy holy name.

We desire, at this season, to bless and praise thee, O Lord, for all the past mercies with which thou hast visited us and our household! God forbid that the present trouble and suffering should make us forget those many, those constant benefits, wherewith thou hast been daily loading us! How great is the sum of them! More than the hairs of our heads, and innumerable as the sands upon the sea-shore!

How long have we enjoyed family comforts and blessings, without any interruption! How long has each member of our house been favoured with health and ease, and numberless bodily mercies! How long has thy candle shone upon our tabernacle,

without any interposing cloud! Blessed be thy good and holy name, O Lord, for these constant, these never-ceasing favours! We are less than the least of all the mercy and of all the truth thou hast caused to pass before us. And when we consider how unworthy our sins have rendered us of the least notice and regard from thee; when we consider how we have exposed ourselves, by our numberless transgressions, to thine anger, and all the dreadful effects of it, both in time and to eternity, we are amazed that we are yet alive. We are astonished, that instead of suffering so little as we have, we are not sinking under the weight of thine heavy indignation! The least mercy we receive from thee is more than we deserve, and the greatest affliction less! Blessed be thy condescending goodness and compassion, that thou hast opened the way for our relief, under every mortal trouble, by thus directing us in thy word, "Is any man afflicted? let him pray!" To thee, O Father of mercies, do we direct our supplications at this time! O Lord, be not far from us when trouble is so near! In an entire submission to the determinations of thy wise and holy will, do we now earnestly pray for thy servant under thine afflicting hand, whose sic

ness fills us with so much concern. Look upon him (or *her*) in his low estate, and remember him, because thy mercy endureth for ever! Suffer not, we beseech thee, O Lord, the disorder to proceed! Let not this sickness be unto death, but to the glory of God! Thou knowest his frame, Lord, lay no more upon him than thou wilt enable him to bear! And, O thou great Physician, without whom all others are of no value, do thou direct to the most proper and suitable means, and give thy blessing, and the desired success in the use of them! And in thy due time restore thy servant to health and strength again; and to a capacity for honouring and serving thee in his family, and the world about him. In the mean time we desire and pray that the affliction may be sanctified to him (or *her*). Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest out of thy law! Give him that patience and resignation that is so necessary and becoming in his condition! Look upon his affliction and pain, and forgive all his sin! And may he be raised up from his sick bed to praise thy name, to pay those vows which he makes in trouble, in the assemblies of thy saints, and to walk before thee in the land of the living!

And, O Lord, help us that are now in health to be preparing for sickness! Let not the youngest of us glory in our strength or vigour; but may we use our various talents in a course of well doing; that so, whenever thou shalt call any of us to our chambers and beds of sickness, we may not be affrighted at the summons. But may we then have those consolations which the world can neither give nor take away!

Now unto God, the only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

A FAMILY PRAYER,

For Resignation when any Member has been removed by Death.

O thou Father of our Spirits, we would lay our hands on our mouths, and fall down now before thee, humbly to own thy sovereign right to dispose of us, and all we have and are, as thou pleasest; we are in thy hands as the clay in the hand of the potter. May our language be, "*It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good!*" "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord!" We desire to know wherefore the Lord is contending with us.

Are there any in this household careless and unconcerned about their souls? Lord, awaken them from their security! May this messenger from the dead startle them, and awaken them to call upon their God!

Are there others who have lost their first-love, grown lukewarm in religion, and lived too much like men of the world? O that this providence may bring us back! May we repent and do our first work, lest when our master cometh he may find us sleeping! And may we all be quickened to a greater diligence, that whatsoever our hands find to do, we may do it with all our might.

May we all keep constantly in remembrance how short our time is; that so we may not boast ourselves of to-morrow, since we know not what a day may bring forth. But may we now, in this our day, mind the things which belong to our everlasting peace, before they are hid from our eyes; enable us to fill up every remaining day well, that so our last day may be our best, and the day of our death better than the day of our birth. Blessed are those servants whom their Lord when he cometh shall find so doing!

Blessed be thy name, that in this world of darkness, sorrow and death, life and in

ortality are brought to light by the gos-
el! Blessed be the God and Father of our
ord Jesus Christ, who has begotten us
gain to a lively hope, by the resurrection
Jesus Christ from the dead, to an in-
eritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that
deth not away, reserved in heaven for us!
We believe in God, we believe also in
esus, the author and finisher of our faith.
hrough him we may hope, not only for
e complete happiness of our souls in an-
her world, but for the resurrection of our
odies to glory, honour, and immortality!
O that these consolations may be ours!
ay we be sure of a title to them, by being
conciled to God through his Son; that,
aving our sins pardoned, and being created
ew in Christ Jesus, we may rejoice toge-
er and comfort one another with these
lessed promises!
And now unto that glorious Lord, who
as dead and is alive again, and lives for
ermore, and has the keys of death; who
ed and rose again, and revived, that he
ight be Lord both of the dead and of the
ving; to him be honour and glory, sal-
ation, victory, triumph, and dominion, for
er and ever. Amen.

A Family Thanksgiving for the Recovery of a Sick Person.

Most merciful and gracious Lord God; thou art good, and thou doest good, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works: and this is the message which we have heard, which we have seen, and which we have particularly experienced, that God is love!

Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, that, instead of being known to us by the judgments which thou mightest righteously execute upon us, thou art manifested to us as a God, willing to forgive all our iniquities; who healest all our diseases: who renewest our youth, and health, and vigour, and crownest us with constant loving-kindness! Thou hast been better to us than our fears, and larger than our hopes and expectations.

O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! O let us, in this family, give thanks unto the Lord; for we have abundant reason to say, he is good, because his mercy endureth for ever. To him who alone doeth great wonders, for his mercy endureth for ever. To him who hath remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy

endureth for ever. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is now in our tabernacle. The right-hand of the Lord doeth mighty things. Thy right-hand, O Lord, is exalted! Thy servant, whom thou hast lately afflicted, shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord! The Lord hath chastened sore; but adored be his sparing mercy, he hath not delivered over unto death! The living, they shall praise thee, as thy restored servant does at this time; the parents to the children shall make known thy truth! Accept, O Lord, we beseech thee, the thanksgivings of thy servant in particular! Thou hast delivered his (or *her*) soul from death, his eyes from fears, and his feet from falling. May he love the Lord, who has heard his voice and his supplications, and endeavour to walk more exactly before thee in the land of the living. May thy servant be enabled to go to thine house; and there may we be among the people that shall witness to the payment of his vows; and join with them in offering the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and calling upon the name of the Lord.

And may this instance of thy goodness and mercy, O heavenly Father, affect and influence all before thee in a proper man-

ner. May we all learn more sensibly, that our greatest worldly good, our dearest comforts, are not in our own hands; but that we depend on God for them all! May we consider them as thy gifts, O Lord, that thou makest every earthly blessing to be to us what it is: and may we use and enjoy them all, as those who know the fashion of this world is passing away, and we ourselves with it!

O God, grant that from this late affliction in our family we may live more like persons who are not to live together always here; and so behave as that we may be better prepared for a breach in our family when God shall think fit to make it. And then, whichsoever of us is called away first, may he be ready to obey the summons; and though parted here, be joined to the nobler family above! O may we all meet there, to be for ever with one another, and with the Lord.

That we may not be disappointed of so comfortable a hope, may we henceforward be quickened to a more abounding diligence in working that work for which thou hast sent us into the world. May we learn by the mercies of God to fill up our stations and relations in our family better than we have done. By this fresh mercy may we

be constrained to devote ourselves living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to our God: that whether we live or die, we may be thine for ever. Amen.

A Family Prayer in prospect of a Journey.

Most blessed and everlasting God! thou art great, and of great power, and thine understanding is infinite! Thou, O Lord, hast searched and known us, thou understandest our thoughts afar off; thou compassest our path, and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways! Whither can we go from thy Spirit, O Lord? And whither shall we flee from thy presence? If we ascend up into heaven, thou art there! If we make our bed in the grave, behold thou art there! If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead us, and thy right-hand shall hold us! If we say, surely the darkness shall cover us, even the night shall be light about us; yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, the night shineth as the day, the darkness and the light are both alike to thee! Adored be thy name, O Lord, for the proof we have had of thy constant presence with us, from the constant, favourable, and gracious

effects of it! From the beginning of ou lives to this day hast thou been with us in our lying down and rising up; in all th business of every day, and amidst all th terrors and darkness of every night: and i every place we have found thee nigh unt us, as our friend, our preserver, and bene factor!

We desire now solemnly to recommen ourselves to thy care and protection, fo the journey we are designing to undertak Being encouraged from our past experienc of thy watchful providence, and comforte with the thought of thy universal presence we commit our ways unto thee, O Lord humbly acknowledging thee in them, an begging thou wouldest direct our paths! I thy presence go not with us, let us not g up from our habitation. But as we hope w are undertaking nothing unlawful in itsel nor unsuitable, we humbly pray, that w may be the objects of thy special care an protection! Direct our course for us, an be with us in the way in which we go. Kee us from every evil to which we are exposed keep, we beseech thee, all our bones, th not one of them may be broken. Preserv to us our bodily health, and may the journ tend to the confirming and establishing

Provide, we pray thee, for our bodily wants by the way; give us bread to eat, and raiment to put on. In every place where we shall go may we find favour, and behave in a proper and becoming manner. Keep us, we beseech thee, from all manner of sin. May we set thee, the Lord, always before us; that so we may never venture to be off our guard because we may be at a distance from those who used to observe, and take notice of our conduct at other times. May we preserve a sense of God and religion upon our minds, in all places and companies; and take every proper opportunity to perform the duties of religious worship. Particularly help us to maintain a constant regard to thy holy day as often as it shall return; and, instead of profaning it by unnecessary travelling or amusements, keep it holy to thee, the Lord! May we endeavour to do all the good we can wherever we go, and so leave a blessing and not a curse behind us. And do thou succeed and prosper whatever we lawfully undertake, and sanctify to us our diversions and recreations.

May our frequent removes from one place to another put us continually in mind of *our unsettled* state in this world. May we *consider ourselves* as pilgrims and strangers

upon earth; as those who have here no continuing city, but are seeking one to come. O may we learn to reckon our whole life as a journey towards that everlasting, unchangeable settlement! And may such a notice of life teach us the better to bear and struggle with the evils and trials of it, and to be more moderate in the enjoyment of the comforts of it: that so we may neither tire nor faint in our course, nor be at a fatal stand. Nor may we ever mistake our way; but hold on and hold out unto the end. And may we be guided through the whole by thy counsel, and at last be received to thy glory.

Watch over our habitation, O Lord, we beseech thee, in our absence; may thine eye be upon it by night and by day; keep it safe from devouring flames, and from the attempts of wicked men. And, in thy due time, may we be returned in health, safety, and comfort, and find our tabernacle in peace!

To thee we recommend our friends and all our fellow creatures. Mercifully regard, we beseech thee, our nation and our public affairs! Bless all that are in authority over us, and may they become terrors to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well.

Bless the Ministers of thy Gospel; and by their means may the word of the Lord have free course and be glorified.

Accept, we humbly pray thee, O thou good and gracious God, of these our acknowledgments of thy perfections and providence, and our repeated dedication of ourselves and all that belongs to us to thy care. Be thou our sun, and our shield; give us grace, and glory; and withhold no good thing from us! We ask all in the name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Family Thanksgiving for a safe Return from a Journey.

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds! Thy righteousness is unmoveable as the great mountains, thy judgments are a great deep. O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

We, who have experienced this thy kind preservation in our late journey, are now come, at the end of it, to bless and praise thy name! We bow ourselves in thanksgivings at thy footstool, O thou our Almighty Guardian, for all that care and pro

tection wherewith thou hast befriended us, from the time we left our habitation to this comfortable return to it! We committed ourselves to thee by prayer and supplication, and trusted in thy kind and fatherly goodness; and thou hast heard our prayers, and blessed us in our going out and our coming in. Thou hast kept us from all evil, and we now visit our tabernacle, and find all in safety! Unto thee, O Lord, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks; for that thy name is near thy wonderful works declare! Through how many dangers have we past unhurt, because thou hast defended us! How many accidents have we escaped, the least of which might have been too hard for us; because thou, Lord, hast prevented them! Not a sparrow falls to the ground without thee, our heavenly Father; and the very hairs of our head are all numbered.

Lord, what shall we render to thee? We desire to renew the dedication of ourselves, and our all to thee, from whom we received all at first; by whom all is secured to us; and we ourselves preserved in the comfortable use and enjoyment of all things! It is *not* enough for us to speak thy praises with our lips, we desire to feel the constraining

power of thy goodness on our hearts; and to shew forth thy praises in our lives and conversation.

May we be careful not to forget the Lord our God, who has done us so much good. And do thou, O Lord, by the influences of thy good Spirit, keep these things on our hearts continually; that we may never wickedly depart from thee, but be engaged thereby to run in the way of thy commandments with greater zeal and vigour!

Forgive, we earnestly beseech thee, all the sins we have committed since we left this place! Whatever has been amiss, mercifully pardon! If we have in any instances forgot ourselves, acted out of character, been off our guard, given into any faulty indulgences, or done any thing which we may have just reason to reproach ourselves for; O Lord, forgive us. We renew our repentance, and take refuge in the merciful provision of the Gospel covenant, ratified and confirmed in the blood of Jesus the great mediator. Forgive that we still so little love thee, who hast so wonderfully loved us; and that we are yet so fond of this vain and changing world, and no more raised in our desires after a better and everlasting state.

O shed abroad thy love in our hearts, that we may love thee with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our strength! Enable us to seek the things which are above, and to set our affections there, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God; that so, when Christ who is our life shall appear, we also may appear with him in glory!

And now, we are returned to our stated service and business in life again, do thou graciously bless and prosper us. Still keep us and our dwellings from all evil, and our affairs from perplexity and entanglement. May every one of us be excited by thy past goodness to go on more contentedly and cheerfully in the way of our duty! May we behave wisely and usefully while we live in the world; and may we, whenever our time comes, depart out of it with honour, and under the strongest influence of the hopes of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God!

Graciously, we beseech thee, regard all whom we ought to remember. Be with all those who are either on journeys by land, or voyages by sea, and need the same mercies of which thou hast lately made us partakers. Preserve them from every evil by the way, especially from the evil of sin; and

bring them back, as thou hast brought us, to their houses and friends in safety, comfort, and joy. May all mankind partake, not only of the blessings of thy common providence, but of thy grace, by the revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among them.

Remember all our relatives and friends with thy special favour. And do for us and ours, and all thine, according to thine infinite wisdom and fatherly goodness. Forsake not, O God, the work of thine own hands, because thy mercy endureth for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now unto Him that is able to save and deliver us from every evil work, and to preserve us unto his heavenly kingdom: to Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A Family Prayer for the Close of a Year.

Praise belongeth unto thee, O Lord, and unto thee shall all flesh come. It was thou who didst in the beginning lay the foundation of the world; and the heavens are the work of thine hands! They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be

changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end! A thousand years, in thy sight, are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night; and one day is with the Lord as a thousand years. In the multitude of thy mercies, O Lord, we are come, once more, to present our family worship at thy foot-stool. Having obtained help of thee, O God, we continue in life and health; and are, through thy blessing, preserved to see the close of another year.

But, above all, would we bless thee for thy kindness to our souls! We thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that we have been born in a Christian land; that we have the knowledge of the Gospel, and the means of obtaining salvation by Jesus Christ! We praise thee that our ears hear those glad tidings of life and eternal happiness revealed by thine own Son in our nature, which many prophets and kings and righteous men have desired to hear, but have not heard them: and that our eyes have seen those glorious things which they have desired to see, but have died without the sight.

We bless and magnify thee for the constant uninterrupted enjoyment of family

blessings through the year. If we have had constant health, thanks be to him, and to him alone, who has been the health of our countenance and our God. Or if any of us have been visited with affliction, yet blessed be God for the gentleness of his chastisements, for our recovery and restoration; and that we now appear together rejoicing in thy mercy and salvation.

We praise thee for continuing to us the comforts of life through the year, and keeping off those evils and calamities from us, by which other families have been most grievously distressed. And if in the year past thou hast blessed the labour of our hands and succeeded our affairs, we would remember that it is thou, O Lord, who givest wisdom to increase our store; that it is thou alone who makest whatsoever we do to prosper; and would give to thee the praise and glory.

We bless thee for preserving us by night and by day, and for taking care of us wherever we have gone; so that no evil has befallen us, no plague has come nigh our dwelling. Thine eye, O Lord, has constantly watched over us and ours from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

More especially would we bless thee fo

continuing to us the means of grace, and the ordinances of thy Gospel! That we have had the enjoyment of sabbaths and sacraments; that we have still line upon line, and precept upon precept; and that thou art yet continuing the strivings of thy good Spirit with our hearts. These mercies are all owing to the riches of thy goodness and long-suffering; by which thou art sparing us in a state of trial, and giving us such abundant means for repentance, and securing our eternal salvation.

Surely thy ways, O Lord, are not as our ways, nor are thy thoughts as our thoughts: else we had long ago been consumed! No: blessed be thy name, we are not consumed amidst all the dangers to which we are exposed, amidst our numberless repeated provocations, because thy compassions fail not.

How different has been *thy* conduct towards *us*, from *our's* towards *thee!* All *thy* ways, O Lord, have been goodness and mercy; all suited to win upon our hearts, to engage our affections to thee, and to fix us for thee. But *our* ways have been in many instances froward and perverse. Our wills have been ungovernable, our affections vain, wandering, and earthly: and our hearts and souls too much under

fluence of sense. How often when thou
called, have we refused to hearken!
often hast thou stretched out thine
and we have not regarded! How
gratitude have we returned for thy
ınt and uninterrupted kindness! How
have the terrors of thy word, and the
ɜnings of thy rod, awed these stubborn
; of ours to obedience!
ıen we have been for any considerable
vithout changes in our family or affairs,
.ve been too apt to forget thee, and
:t that fear and reverence which is thy
And when, at other times, we have
passing through various changes, how
ave we been to murmur and repine,
.d of submitting to thy holy will with
per and becoming temper!
e best of us have abundant cause to
le ourselves, that we are no better;
we come so very short of what thou
:est justly expect from us! We have
trees planted by the rivers of water;
at we had, in the expected seasons,
;ht forth fruit in some measure worthy
n by whom we have been thus planted,
vatered, and blessed with all spiritual
ngs, in heavenly things in Christ Jesus!
ve have reason to be ashamed of our

unprofitableness and unfruitfulness, and that our goodness has so often been no better than the morning cloud, and the early dew that passeth away.

Thou mightest justly have cut us down in anger: but adored be thy name, we are let alone this year also! And for what hast thou spared us, O Lord, but that we may repent of all we have done amiss, and resolve to amend our ways? We do unfeignedly repent of all our sins: we do take shame to ourselves for all our transgressions and provocations! We are heartily sorry, that so much of the past year has been witness to so many repeated failings and follies, as well as (with regard to some of us, it is to be feared,) greater sins! And we see our iniquities are aggravated by thy continued never-failing bounty and goodness! We would come and confess our sorrow and grief for sin. We would take with us words and turn unto thee, O Lord; and say, "If thou, Lord, shouldest be strict to mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand? for then in thy sight no flesh living could be justified! But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared," and loved. Through Jesus Christ, the great atonement, we may hope to obtain the remission of all

our sins, and an interest in thy favour. In his name we plead for pardon. Lord, take away all iniquity from us; receive us graciously, and love us freely. O let all our sins be blotted out, and may we not begin a new year under the weight of unpardoned guilt. But may we be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

And now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer to be used at the Beginning of a New Year.

O God of all grace, from whom cometh every good desire and every humble endeavour, grant that this new year we are entering upon, may witness to our greater reformation from every thing that is amiss in us; and our being more and more renewed in the spirit of our minds. May all old things be done away; and may we learn more heartily to approve and practise thy good, and holy, and acceptable will. It

our earnest desire to live better than we have done. It is our fixed resolution to amend our ways, whereinsoever we know we have done wrong. And our prayer is to thee, O thou gracious God, for thine assistance, and the influence of thy Holy Spirit, to establish all our good purposes, and render all our endeavours in the practice of holiness successful and effectual. May thy grace be always sufficient for us, and thy strength made manifest in our weakness; that so we may be enabled to be faithful unto death, and at last obtain a crown of life.

And now, O Lord, to thee we most solemnly commend ourselves, and our family, for the ensuing year. If thou seest fit to spare us all through it, may it be in mercy to every one of us. And if it be thy holy will, we pray that we may be let alone another year. That if there should be any here who as yet have been quite cumberers of the ground, they may at last bring forth some fruit; and that others of us may become more and more fruitful, and so glorify our Father who is in heaven. We would not desire life, merely for the sake of living in this world; but chiefly, as it is an opportunity for honouring thee our God; for

promoting the interests of the Redeemer, and doing good to our fellow-creatures. For these purposes we pray, O Lord, that thou wouldest spare us. And O that we may not contradict such desires and purposes by our after conduct! All our worldly concerns we commit to thy care; and beg, that we may pass this year in those circumstances which thou knowest to be best for us. If it be so, may we have health, and the comforts of life continued without any interruption. If not, prepare us for sickness, and every change through which thou shalt think proper to lead us. And if thou shalt think proper for us to make our great change before this year shall end, may we be ready for it: and all the days of our appointed time may we be waiting till this most important change shall come.

We desire to fix all our schemes as to time with an humble submission to thy will. O Lord, so teach us to number our remaining few and evil days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom! We praise thee, O Lord, for *national* mercies the year past, and humbly implore the continuance of them! We are, indeed, the land which *thou, the Lord* our God, hast cared for. O *may we still* be the object of thy care and

kindness! Blessed be God for temporal and spiritual mercies; for the health and plenty of our land; and for the continuance of thy Gospel among us, after all our past abuse of the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering. May we at last be reformed. Continue to bless to us our civil government: spare our Queen and all the Royal Family to us; and succeed all her counsels for the increasing welfare and happiness of the land. May our poor be satisfied with bread, and let there be no just cause of complaining in our streets. May thy Gospel still continue, and be more successful on the hearts of ministers and hearers.

And O that this may be the acceptable year of the Lord to *those nations* that have hitherto sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. How long, O Lord, holy and true, shall ignorance blind, and error and superstition pervert the minds of reasonable creatures! O that the year of thy redeemed may come! Hasten the blessed time, we pray thee, when they shall no more hurt or destroy in all thy holy mountain.

To thee, O Lord, we earnestly commend our *friends and* relations, and all we are concerned for. Mercifully regard them all;

and make this year a truly happy one to them, as well as to us. Graciously accept our offering, and bless the offerers, through Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate, who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Now unto Him who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man hath seen nor can see; to him be honour and power everlasting! Amen.

HYMN

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The Lord, our salvation and light,
  The guide and the strength of our days,
Has brought us together to night,
  A new Ebenezer to raise.
The year we have now passed through,
  His goodness with blessings has crown'd;
Each morning his mercies were new:
  Then let our thanksgivings abound.

Encompass'd with dangers and snares,
  Temptations, and fears, and complaints,
His ear he inclin'd to our pray'rs;
  His hand open'd wide to our wants.

We never besought him in vain,
  When burden'd with sorrow or sin;
He help'd us again and again,
  Or where, before now, had we been!

His Gospel throughout the long year,
  From Sabbath to Sabbath he gave;
How oft has he met with us here,
  And shewn himself mighty to save!
His candlestick has been remov'd
  From churches once privileg'd thus;
But though we unworthy have prov'd,
  It still is continued to us.

For so many mercies receiv'd,
  Alas! what returns have we made!
His Spirit we often have griev'd,
  And evil for good have repaid.
How well it becomes us to cry,
  Oh! who is a God like to thee!
Who passest iniquities by,
  And plungest them deep in the sea!

To Jesus, who sits on the throne,
  Our best hallelujahs we bring:
To thee it is owing alone,
  That we are permitted to sing.
Assist us, we pray, to lament
  The sins of the year that is past:
And grant that the next may be spent
  Far more to thy praise than the last.

A Prayer under Spiritual Decay.

Eternal and unchangeable Jehovah! thy perfections and thy glories are like thy being, immutable! Jesus, thy Son, is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. The eternal world, to which we are hastening, is always equally important. But, alas! our views, and our affections, and our best resolutions are continually varying. Whence, O Lord! whence this sad change which we now experience in the frame and temper of our minds towards thee? Whence this alienation of our souls from thee? Why cannot we come to thee with all the endearments of filial love, as we once could? Why is thy service so remissly attended, if attended at all? And why are the exercises of it, which were once our greatest pleasure, become a burden to us. Alas! Lord, whither are we fallen! Thine eye sees us still; but oh! unlike what it once saw us! Cold and insensible as we are, we must blush at the reflection. Thou seest us in secret; and seest us, perhaps, often amusing ourselves with trifles in those seasons which we used solemnly to devote to thine immediate service. Thou seest us coming into thy presence as by constraint! and when we are

before thee, so straitened in our spirit, that we hardly know what to say to thee; though thou art the God with whom we have to do; and though the keeping up an humble and dutiful correspondence with thee, is beyond all comparison the most important business of our lives. And even when we are speaking to thee, with how much coldness and formality is it! It is perhaps the work of the imagination, the labour of the lips; but where are those ardent desires, those intense breathings after God, which we once felt? Where is that pleasing repose in thee which we were once conscious of, as being near our divine rest, as being happy in that nearness, and resolving, if possible, we would no more be removed from it? But oh! how far are we now removed! When these short devotions are over, in what long intervals do we forget thee! Thou callest us to thine house, O Lord, on thine own day; but how heartless are our services there! We offer thee only an empty form. Our thoughts and affections are engrossed with other objects, while we draw near to thee with our mouth, and honour thee with our lips. Thou callest us to thy table; but our hearts are so frozen, that they hardly melt, even at the foot of the cross! hardly

feel any efficacy in the blood of Jesus! Is this, Lord, the service we once promised; and which thou hast such manifold reasons to expect? Are these the returns we are making for thy daily providential care; for the sacrifice of thy Son; for the communications of thy Spirit; for the pardon of our numberless aggravated sins; for the hopes of eternal glory? Lord, we are ashamed to kneel before thee! but pity us, we beseech thee, and help us. "Our souls cleave unto the dust," and lay as in the dust before thee: but, "O quicken us, according to thy word!" Let us trifle no longer; for we are on the brink of a precipice! O give us grace to turn our feet unto thy testimonies. Search us, O Lord, and try us; go to the root of this distemper which spreads itself over our souls; and recover us from it. So represent sin unto us, O Lord, we pray thee, that we may see it with abhorrence: and represent the Lord Jesus Christ to us in such a light, that we may look upon him and mourn; that we may look upon him and love. May we awake from our stupid lethargy into which we are sinking. And may Christ give us *more* abundant degrees of spiritual *life and activity* than we have ever yet re-

ceived. May we be so quickened and
mated by him, that we may more
recover the ground we have lost.
down upon us, O Lord, in a more rich
abundant effusion, thy good Spirit: ma
dwell in us as a temple which he has
secrated to himself: and may the joy o
Lord be our strength. Amen.

PRAYERS

FOR YOUNG PERSONS.

A repenting Youth at Prayer.

O most just and holy, most gracious and merciful Lord God, I am a wretched undone sinner, and had been undone for ever, if thou hadst not pulled me as a brand out of the fire. I have been sinning grievously, practising almost every youthful lust. I have broken through the restraints of principle and education, forced conscience, stifled conviction, and hardened my neck against reproof. I have stopped my ear against thy word, slighted and neglected prayer, and rejected all the offers of thy love. But thine eye has pitied me, and thy hand touched my heart. Thy word and thy rod have awakened me. I now begin to see my folly and my danger. I see thy flaming sword hanging over me. All the terror of thy Law and Gospel belong to me. But I fly to thy mercy. I see thy arms of grace extended to receive me. I see a fountain opened to wash me. I see the blood of Christ shed to take away my sin. It h

been trampled on and despised; but now I prize it above all the world, I plead it as my atonement; I have no other plea but my Saviour's merits and thy mercy. Thou hast sent him to be my Saviour. Save me, O my God, through him, by the virtue of his blood; by the efficacy of his Spirit; by the power of his word. Save me, O God, or I am lost for ever. I review my life with horror. I repent in dust and ashes. I have done foolishly a thousand times, and forgotten thee days without number; but I hope thou hast changed me, and formed me anew; and that I am not the creature I once was. I am ashamed; yea, even confounded, when I look back. But with thee is plenteous pardon! Pardon my transgressions, for they are great. Let a repenting sinner live. I purpose, by thy grace, to offend no more. O God, create my heart anew; repair thine image in me; put thy Holy Spirit within me; and make me thine adopted child.

I have been a lover of the world, and of sinful pleasures more than of God; have indulged my body, but neglected and starved my soul: this is my folly and my shame. But I return to thee through Christ. I cast myself upon thy grace.

Here I am at thy feet; cast me not away for ever. I cannot endure the thought of everlasting banishment from thy presence. And as I am resolved to be thine, and to serve thee through the remainder of my life, I pray thee to confirm these resolutions, that I may indeed be thine, thy child, and thy servant for ever; and at last find a place in heaven, through Jesus Christ, the lamb that was slain; who is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN.

SEEKING GOD.

My God permit my tongue
  This joy to call thee mine;
And let my early cries prevail
  To taste thy love divine.

My thirsty fainting soul
  Thy mercy doth implore;
Not travellers in desert lands

Within thy churches, Lord,
  I long to find my place;
Thy pow'r and glory to behold,
  And feel thy quick'ning grace.

For life without thy love
  No relish can afford;
No joy can be compar'd with this,
  To serve and please the Lord.

To thee I'll lift my hands,
  And praise thee while I live;
Not all the dainties of a feast
  Such food or pleasure give.

In wakeful hours of night
  I call my God to mind;
I think how wise thy counsels are,
  And all thy dealings kind.

Since thou hast been my help,
  To thee my spirit flies.
And on thy watchful providence
  My cheerful hope relies.

The shadow of thy wings
  My soul in safety keeps;
I follow where my Father leads,
  And he supports my steps.

A pious Youth seeking after God, and rejoicing in him.

O most high and holy God! I have sought thee and have found thee. Awhile ago I knew thee not, though thou wast ever near me. But thy grace has abounded towards me: thou hast opened mine eyes, and I see thee: I see thine infinite perfections drawn upon all thy works of wonder. When I life up my eyes, and consider the heavens, I own them to be the works of thy hand; and wonder that the Builder and Inhabiter of those glorious worlds should look down upon man, and visit such worms as we are. The sun, moon, and stars, are all created by thee. I see thy glory in them all, and the glory of thy Son Jesus Christ, by whom thou madest the world. Every day and every night they speak thy praise, and tell the world there is a God. And while the heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament thy handy works, how can I forbear to worship and adore thee their great Creator?

Thou, O Almighty God! hangest the earth upon nothing; balancest the clouds; *bringest the* wind out of thy treasuries; *thunderest* marvellously with thy voice:

and thou causest the sea to know its bounds. I admire, I adore the God of nature and providence, whose hand doth all these things, and who fainteth not, neither is weary. O Lord, how manifold are thy works, all made in wisdom: and where can I go where thou art not?

I adore and tremble at thy holiness and purity, who "chargest thine angels with folly; and in whose sight the heavens are not clean." I admire and adore thine infinite goodness, the earth is full of it. But what mind can conceive, what tongue can tell, the wonders of thy love in giving thy beloved Son to save a perishing world! O the height and depth of this love! How many thousand sinners have been pardoned through Christ, and yet pardoning grace is still offered! How long does divine pity wait over sinners! How long hast thou ha patience with me!

At length I come; I come worshippi at thy footstool, admiring the riches of t grace in Christ; admiring that goodn which offers me a thousand blessings the Gospel, and which has laid up m for me than can enter into my hear conceive. Accept, O God, accept thine creature, lying prostrate before thee:

e one more instance of pardoning and ving grace, that I may shew forth thy 'aises in thy earthly temples; and may), ere long, to sing thy praises in thy mple above, through a dying and now sen and interceding Saviour. Amen.

HYMN.

:HE ENCOURAGEMENT YOUNG PERSONS HAVE TO SEEK CHRIST.

Ye hearts with youthful vigour warm,
  In smiling crowds draw near;
And turn from every mortal charm,
  A Saviour's voice to hear.

He, Lord of all the worlds on high,
  Stoops to converse with you;
And lays his radiant glories by,
  Your friendship to pursue.

"The soul that longs to see my face,
  "Is sure my love to gain;
"And those that early seek my grace
  "Shall never seek in vain."

What object, Lord, my soul should move,
  If once compar'd with thee!
What beauty should command my love,
  Like what in Christ I see.

Away, ye false delusive toys,
Vain tempers of the mind!
'Tis here I fix my lasting choice,
For here true bliss I find.

The Child's Prayer to the good Shepherd.

Blessed Jesus, I, a poor weak, tender creature, come to thee: but it was in regard to such weakness that thou hast been pleased to speak so graciously. I believe what I have heard, and I mean to venture my soul upon it. I flee to thee as the helpless lamb to its shepherd, when hungry, that he may feed it; when pursued by wild beasts, that he may defend it. Lord, open thine arms and thy bosom to me, though I am so inconsiderable a creature out of the mouths of babes and suckling thou ordainest praise. Fill my heart wit love, and my mouth with thy praise, a lead me on, till I may come to praise th amongst the holy angels in heaven, a serve thee as they do, for ever. Amen.

A Child's Prayer.

O Lord God! I am a poor helpless sinful child, but thou art my heavenly Father, and I hope, through Christ Jesus, my reconciled God and Father. I now come to thee, and I am grieved and sorry to think that I have ever left thee. I have gone astray from thee like a lost sheep, but I now come to thee. Accept me as thy child; take me, O Father, into the arms of thy mercy; and may thy beloved Son, who took children in his arms, take me in the arms of his love and bless me. Let thy Spirit renew my sinful nature, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me; take away the stony, and give me a soft, a tender heart; a heart to mourn for sin, and to be afraid of offending thee; a heart to love thee and to love all thy children. Deliver me from all the snares of the devil, from sinful company, from a lying tongue, and from my own wilful and obstinate temper. Be thou a Father to me in the dearest sense—to teach me, to guide me, to provide for me. Teach me to love thee, to pray to thee, and to serve thee here; and prepare me to dwell with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Child's Prayer.

"Be ye followers of God as dear children."

Heavenly Father, am I thy child? O teach me how to follow thee. Teach me to follow thee as dear children should follow a Father whom they love; a Father whom they fear; a Father whom they ought to obey in all things! Lord, what wouldest thou have me to do? I know thine own word says, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." I am thy child, for thou madest me, and by thee I live, and move, and have my being. But I cannot be thy dear child if I am not holy. I know thou canst not look upon sin. I know and feel that I have inclinations to that which is evil; and I have too much followed them with my own will, contrary to thy holy will and commandments. I know that thou lovest truth in the inner man, in the heart. But I have often tried to deceive others; and tried to make them believe what is not true. I have often tried to deceive myself. I have seen others bad; and I thought that I was not worse than they were, and that I should do as well as they did. I was rebellious and stubborn, and disobedient to my earthly parents; how then could I look up to thee?

how then can I lift up my heart to thee? Father forgive me for thy mercy's sake: what I know not, that teach thou me: and what thou wouldest have me to be and to do, that do thou make me, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Mother's Prayer for her Children.

Most glorious and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of men and angels, Father of mercies, and God of all comforts; thou hast promised to be a Father to a thousand generations of them that love and fear thee. Be thou a God and a Father to me, and the children which thou hast given me. Enable me, O Lord, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the fear of God, to the praise of thy holy name. O give me thy grace and favour, that I may instruct them with diligence and meekness, govern them with prudence and holiness, provide for them useful employments and competent provisions of life and comfort, leading them in the paths of religion and justice, by examples and precepts of holiness; never provoking them to wrath, never indulging them in their follies, never con

iving at any unworthy action: and that all my children may be thine, O preserve them in thy favour. If thou pleasest, let them live to a full age; but above all secure to them a full measure of piety and holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To this end, give them grace to obey their parents, that doing their duty they may receive the promise: preserve them from sin and shame, from youthful follies, and youthful crimes: and sanctify them throughout in their bodies, and souls, and spirits, that their thoughts may be pure and holy; not displeasing to the eye of Him who is the searcher of hearts. Let their words be true, prudent, and ingenuous, seasoned with grace, and apt to minister grace unto the hearers. Let all their actions in their whole life be such as become the servants of Jesus, holy and useful, that they may not be burdens to the public, or to their family; but pleasing thee and doing good to others, they may increas in the love of God, and in favour with me and may have the portion of the meek a humble in this world, and of the pure a merciful in the world to come, throu Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Parents for their Children.

O God! thou art our God, and we will seek thee; our father's God, and we will exalt thee! and we beseech thee to be our children's God. Save them from sin, and satan, and this evil world. Save them from the vanity of childhood and youth: incline their hearts to holiness, and give them the wisdom which is from above. Pour thy Spirit upon our seed, and thy blessing upon our offspring; that they may be a seed to serve thee, which shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Teach and enable us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and to instruct and guide, reprove and exhort them in the meekness of wisdom, as those who travel in birth again to see Christ formed in their souls. Let none of our's come short of eternal life, or be found on Christ's left-hand at the great day. Let it be the joy of our hearts to see them walking in the truth, and setting their faces heaven-ward.

We ask not for them great things belonging to this world. So far as shall be for their spiritual and eternal good, favour them with health and safety, give them

direction and blessing in every honest employment, and feed them with food convenient for them. Especially make them wise for their souls and eternity.

If it should please thee to remove any of them from us by death, while they are young, make us humbly submissive and resigned, and firmly persuaded that all is well. If, while they are young, thou shouldest remove us from them, be thou infinitely better to them than we were capable of being; for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. And, when we are gone to praise thee in heaven, let our dear children be praising thee on earth; and be living, not to themselves, but to him that died for them and rose again.

Lord, thou knowest our care and concern, and we desire to cast it upon thee. Let serious godliness in our family make our dwelling a house of God, and a nursery for Christ and glory. Let our children do more and better service for thee in their day, than we have done in ours. And before the tribunal of Christ may we joyfully say, "Here are we, and the children thou gavest us." Grant us this rich grace, for the sake of thy dear and only-begotten Son, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit,

kingdom, power, and glory, for ever.

The Poor Man's Prayer.

hou Father of all! who hast graci-
promised to deliver "the needy when
:th, the poor also, and him that hath
per;" we had fainted, unless we had
ed in thy goodness! We have been
ıt low, and thou hast helped us: at
nd we have received our daily bread.
hough sometimes our cup of earthly
ıas been almost dry; yet thou hast
supplied it, and again encouraged us
:t in thee! Hast thou said, the very
of our head are all numbered; and
e not cast our care upon him who
ıreth for us! Thou, Lord, hast never
en them that trust in thee! But, O
od, we thank thee, that though poor
his world's good, we may be rich in
ınd heirs of heaven. We thank thee
at bread which cometh down from
ı—that bread which is the life of the
and the life of our souls; we would
ıpon it till our souls are nourished
ternal life! We will not complain

while we see him who was rich, but for our sake became poor. Blessed Jesus! how highly hast thou honoured the poor; and how greatly hast thou favoured them with the glad tidings of thy gospel! Blessed poverty, that makes us poor in spirit, and heirs of thy kingdom! Having nothing, we may then possess all things.

May we be thy followers in humility and poverty of spirit, be conformed to thine image, and made meet for that world where sorrow and sighing shall flee away, where all tears shall be wiped away from our eyes; and where we shall be made kings and priests unto our God for ever! Amen.

HYMN.

Though troubles assail,
  And dangers affright;
Though friends should all fail
  And foes all unite:
Yet one thing secures us,
  Whatever betide;
The Scripture assures us,
  "The Lord will provide."

The birds without barn
  Or storehouse are fed;
From them let us learn
  To trust for our bread.

His saints what is fitting
  Shall ne'er be deny'd,
So long as 'tis written
  "The Lord will provide."

We may, like the ships,
  By tempests be tost
On perilous deeps;
  But cannot be lost.
Though Satan enrages
  The wind and the tide;
The promise engages,
  "The Lord will provide."

His call we obey,
  Like Abraham of old,
Not knowing our way;
  But faith makes us bold.
For, though we are strangers,
  We have a good guide;
And trust, in all dangers,
  "The Lord will provide."

When Satan appears
  To stop up our path
And fill us with fears,
  We triumph by faith.
He cannot take from us,
  Though oft he has try'd,
This heart-cheering promise,
  "*The* Lord will provide."

He tells us we're weak,
  Our hope is in vain;
The good that we seek
  We ne'er shall obtain.
But when such suggestions
  Our spirits have tried,
This answers all questions,
  "The Lord will provide."

No strength of our own,
  Or goodness we claim:
Yet since we have known
  The Saviour's great name;
In this our strong tower
  For safety we hide;
The Lord is our power,
  "The Lord will provide."

When life sinks apace,
  And death is in view;
This word of his grace
  Shall comfort us through.
No fearing or doubting
  With Christ on our side;
We hope to die shouting,
  "The Lord will provide."

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

Marks of Growth in Grace.

My Friends,

If there is a living principle of grace in your souls, it will be growing, and your growth will evidence your spiritual life. And would you not have some evidence that you are indeed alive; united to Jesus Christ as your living head, having his Spirit dwelling in you as a vital principle! that you are such as he will preserve from eternal death, and make happy in eternal life? Of what importance is it to examine whether you are growing or not! Ask yourselves seriously, am I growing in grace or not? Does grace enter further into my soul, refine and spiritualize it? Have I more light, more faith, more love, more humility, better dispositions for the service of God, and self-denial? Am I more thank-

ful, more watchful, more careful and diligent in every duty? Does my growth extend to the several kinds of graces? Is grace more strong and powerful? Are the exercises of it easy, regular, and constant? And do I find the fruits of it more eminently appearing both in heart and life? Let me intreat you to dwell upon each of these particulars.

1. Grace is growing *when it spreads itself wider in the soul;* that is, when each faculty becomes more spiritual and refined: when grace penetrates further into it; when the whole mind is more subject to the Gospel of Christ, and under its influence; when divine light is brighter in the understanding, and the will is become more loving and obedient to God; when the soul is more powerfully drawn by the great motives and encouragements of the Gospel; when it is more affected with the displays of the authority of God, and the grace of a Saviour, and more powerfully bowed to the Redeemer's demands; when divine things take faster hold of the soul, and command it more; when the mind is become seasoned with the great principles of the Gospel; when it is moulded into the very image of God as the wax is to the seal.

2. We may be said to grow in grace *when we are growing in the several kinds of grace.* The beginning of the divine life in the soul, is like the kindling of a spark of fire which grows up into a flame. And when there is an increase of one and the other, or of every kind of grace, then the soul may be said to grow. When it has not only common but special grace, then there is not only light and knowledge, but faith also; nor yet faith only, but a holy life. And when there is added to this, a flaming love; when the soul is melted into godly sorrow; when it is led to exercise itself in mortification and self-denial; and to cleanse itself from all filthiness both of flesh and spirit; and when it rises from holiness to comfort and joy in believing.

3. The soul grows *when it becomes more strong and powerful in any particular grace.* The more we grow in grace, the more will the force and efficacy of it be felt, and the actings of it will be more successful in reaching their end, either in mortifying sin, or in furnishing us for duty. We grow in knowledge and light, when the great mysteries of the gospel shine more visibly in the life, and become more fruitful in forming us to faith, and love, and meekness

and holiness of conversation. The more we purify our souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, the more we grow in grace. So when our affections become answerable to the steadiness and vigour of our aith; when great difficulties do not lead us to distrust and anxiety, as little ones did before; but we can trust God in the greatest that befall us. They grow who once struggled with passion and appetite, and were easily led away by them, but can now overcome them; whose good desires rise into holy endeavours; whose good thoughts ripen into holy words and actions; whose knowledge is more clear and certain, more powerful and experimental; whose love is more fervent, steady, and pure; and whose repentance flows not only from a sense of wrath and fear of hell, but from a love of God and hatred of sin.

4. *When the exercise of grace becomes more easy and pleasant to us than it was before.* When the several graces of the Spirit are ready to be called out to exercise, and move like oiled wheels upon the first attempt to set them in motion. That soul is in a growing state that is ready to attend duty upon short warning, and with every grace engaged; that can pray and

read in a spiritual frame, deny itself, act faith in the promises, renounce the devil and the flesh, forgive injuries, and do acts of charity with readiness and pleasure. Some persons find their minds lie a great way off, and averse from spiritual and holy exercises, they must argue with themselves a great while before they can prevail. The Christian has frequently hard work to do. He must chide himself again and again before his backward spirit will comply. On the other hand, when spiritual work is become natural and easy to the soul, there is undoubtedly improvement and growth in grace. There may be growth indeed where there is some difficulty in getting the heart into a spiritual frame; but then that grace cannot be so remarkable; though the existence of it cannot be denied, yet the strength and vigour of it must. This is an evidence that grace is weak, though it may be true.

We may be said to grow in grace, when we are more steady, constant, and regular in the exercise of it; and are still reaching forward to the greatest perfection.

5. The soul is growing *when the fruits of grace appear eminently upon it*. The tree that bears good fruit certainly grows. "God is able," says the Apostle, "to make

all grace abound towards you, that ye always having sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." When Christians are called out to any special duty or service, they shew they had their hearts fitted for that service, by a readiness to engage in it, and a skilful performance of it to the glory of God. This is a glorious sufficiency. When an earthly mind becomes heavenly, and a vain mind becomes serious; when a narrow spirit becomes generous; and one that was slothful and inactive in the service of God, becomes one of excellent usefulness, full of good works, and brings forth fruit; this is growth in grace. In any or all of these instances there may be growth.

6. *Inquire whether you grow in humble and mean thoughts of yourselves.* To these God has made the promise, that he will give more grace: "he resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." Humbling yourselves is the way to be exalted, both in grace and in the divine favour. The tree that shoots its roots furthest downwards, rises highest upward with its branches, and stands the fastest with all its height. They who have stood fast in the rank of God's worthies, have commonly had

the least and lowest thoughts of themselves. "I count not myself to have apprehended," was the language of that eminent apostle, St. Paul. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:" and in other places he confesseth, that he was less than the least of all saints, and the chief of sinners. "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which thou hast shewed unto thy servant." Humility gives rising to grace; there is an aptness in it to make the soul grow, because it leads to God in Christ, under a sense of its own weakness, and makes it warm and earnest at a throne of grace for relief.

7. *Do you grow in a love and value for the blessed Jesus?* This will be an excellent symptom of growth! St. Paul was got to a noble height, when he counted all things but loss and dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord! He who has been most solicitous for grace, and taken most pains in duty, will have the highest value for Christ. He sees so much imperfection in every grace, so many defects in every service he performs; that he will acknowledge he must perish, if he is not justified by a better righteousness, if *he has not* an all-sufficient Redeemer.

Lastly. *Do your desires after growth in grace increase? and are you more diligent in your endeavours after it?* Our perfection on earth lies in desire; I mean in laborious endeavouring desire; not in slothful lazy wishes. Desires, indeed, are what the good man talks of more than any thing else; but lest you should flatter yourself into any dangerous mistake, observe whether your desires are active, and put you upon the greatest diligence and labour in the way that God hath prescribed. It is a remarkable, and an affecting expression of a great man, "Hell is paved with lazy wishes." The wise man says, the desire of the slothful killeth him; his desires must be perpetual torment to him, because he will not be at the pains to give them satisfaction. The diligent hand maketh rich, both in temporals and spirituals. There is no growth to be expected without pains; though while we labour we must own the success of all depends upon the divine blessing. *Endeavours belong to us* by God's appointment, and *success* belongs *to him*. "Forgetting, therefore, the things that are behind, let us press forward; pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus."

Symptoms of declining in Grace.

1. You are declining in grace when you grow bolder with sin, or with the occasions of it, or temptations to it, than you were in your more watchful state.

2. When you make a small matter of those inward corruptions and infirmities which once seemed grievous to you, and almost intolerable.

3. When you settle in a course of religion that costs you little labour, and leave out the hard and costly part; and seem to be very religious in the rest.

4. When you grow strange to God and Christ, and have little converse with him in the Spirit; and your thoughts of him are few, and cold, and lifeless; and your religion consists in conversing with good men, and good books, and outward duties.

5. When you are careless about heart-work; and find but little to do with your hearts from day to day in trying them, or watching them, or stirring them up, or mortifying their corruptions: but your business in religion is most abroad, and in outward exercises.

6. *Though* your own hearts and duties

must have much of your thoughts, you are on the losing hand, if the wonders of love and grace in Christ have not more of your thoughts and of your devout affections.

7. All is not well with you when spiritual helps and advantages are less relished and valued, and you grow more indifferent to the sermons, prayers, and ordinances which once you could not live without; when you use them but as bare duties, for necessity and not as means, without any great hope of benefit and success.

8. When you regard too much the eye of man, and too little the eye of God: and are more attentive to the words and outside of your prayers, than the secret and inward part of them; and dress yourselves accurately when you appear abroad, but at home wear the sordid garb of a cold and careless heart and life.

9. When you grow hottest about some controverted smaller matters in religion, or studious of the interest of some private opinion or party which you have chosen, more than of the interest of the common truths and cause of Christ; more uncharitable and censorious to brethren that differ from you, and less tender of the names and welfare of others; and when you love not

your neighbour as yourselves, and do not as you would be done by.

10. When the renewing of your repentance is grown a lifeless, cursory work. When in preparation for the Lord's day, or sacrament, or other duties, you call yourselves to no serious account, and grow slight in self-examination; and are contented in the daily use of ordinances, though you find no profit, or increase in grace, or communion with God.

11. When sense and appetite, and fleshly pleasures are grown more powerful; and when you are more proud and impatient, and less able to bear disesteem, and slighting and injuries from men, or poverty, or sufferings for Christ; and make a greater matter of your crosses and wrongs, than becomes one that is dead to the flesh and the world.

Lastly; when the hopes of heaven, and the love of God, cannot content you; but you are thirsting after some worldly contentment, and grow eager in your desires, and the world grows more sweet to you: when you had rather dwell on earth than in heaven; and are more unwilling to think of death, or to prepare for it, or expect it, and are less in love with the coming of Christ;

and are ready to say of this sinful life in the flesh, it is good to be here. All these are signs of a declining state, though yet you are not come to apostacy.

Advice to doubting Christians.

Judge not of your hearts and evidences upon every sudden glance of feeling; but upon a sober, deliberate examination: and let your skill and diligence be much greater to get grace, and use it, and increase it, than to try whether you have it or not. There is no such safe way to be certain that you have grace, as to get so much as will be easily discerned, and will shew itself. When you have a strong faith, you will easily be sure that you believe; when you have a fervent love to Christ, and holiness, you will easily be assured that you love them: when you strongly hate sin, and live in universal constant obedience, you will easily discern your repentance and obedience. Weak grace will have but weak assurance, and little consolation.

Set yourselves, with all your skill and diligence, to destroy every sin of heart and

life; and make it your principal care and business to do your duty, and please God, and do all the good you can in the world; and trust God with your souls, as long as you wait upon him in his way. If you live in wilful sin and negligence; if you cherish your sensual fleshly lusts, and set your hearts too eagerly on the world; if you indulge the passions of envy, pride, or uncharitableness, or live in the neglect of duty to God or man, and make no conscience of a true reformation; it is not any inquiries after signs of grace that will help you to assurance. You may complain long enough before you have ease while such a thorn is in your foot. Conscience must be better used before it speaks a word of sound well-grounded peace. But when you set yourselves, with all your care and skill to do your duty, and please your Lord, he will not let you labour in vain; he will take care of your peace and comfort, while you take care of your duty; and in this way you may safely trust him.

Compassionate Address to the fearful and dejected Christian.

My dear fellow Christians, whose souls are taken up with the anxious thoughts of attaining to, and preserving your peace with God; who are vile in your own eyes, and value the blood, and Spirit, and word of your Redeemer, and the hope of heaven, before all the vanities of the world; and resolve to give up yourselves to his conduct, who is become the author of eternal salvation to all those that obey him: your merciful and heavenly Father has, by his beloved Son, sent you this joyful message, that God is love; that like as a father pities his own children, so the Lord pities you. He commands us by his word to tell you that he takes notice of your sorrows; he stands by, when you see him not, and are ready to think he has forsaken you: he minds you with the greatest tenderness when you say he has forgotten you; he numbereth your sighs; he bottles up your tears; he takes it unkind that you are so suspicious of him; and that all that he hath done for you in the work of redemption, and all the gracious workings of his Spirit on your souls, and all your own ex-

perience of his goodness, can raise you to no higher a sense of his love.

Do you not see, and hear, and taste his mercy and love? Do you live wholly upon it, and yet doubt of it? God takes not this well. But yet he knows your frame, and remembers that you are dust: he knows that the flesh will war against the Spirit; he knows that sin will breed sorrows and fears; and that man's understanding is narrow, and that all his conceptions of God are extremely low: that we are so far from God as creatures, and so much further from him as sinners, that we shall sometimes draw back and look at God afar off. But, my friends, it is not the will of your Father, that you should always keep at the distance of a servant, or a slave; he wishes you to enjoy the privileges of children; to cry, Abba, Father. To win your hearts, you are told, "That God so loved the world, as to send his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Hear the gracious invitations of this merciful Saviour; "Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And *is not this* gracious invitation addressed to *all? And* are you excluded? Are not yo

the weary and heavy laden? Here i
rest and peace offered which you want
member, when you are upon your
that your heavenly Father stands b
seeching you to accept of what yo
beseeching him to grant. Do you w
pardon, life, and salvation? You hav
to receive it in the gospel way. Are y
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Suppose you have never accepted of
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vation!" Behold he stands at the do
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all his saving and sanctifying bles
Come then boldly to a throne of grace
you may "obtain mercy, and find gr
help in every time of need."

Is it not a comfort to your dejected
to reflect that your gracious High
was tempted like as you are, and is to
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will not break the bruised reed. Ol
poor bruised wounded soul had but
these words from his Saviour's mouth:
Spirit of the Lord is upon me, bec
has anointed me to preach the gosp

poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted: to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." What heart-meltings would it have caused, what love would it have raised! You would surely then have believed that the Lord is indeed gracious! Let the soul who is doubting of God's love read the character of his heavenly Father in the story of the returning prodigal, and let him feel what that poor penitent felt, when he found himself in the arms of his compassionate father. The soul that felt this, would never sure have such hard and doubtful thoughts of God! Read the words of him who is high and holy; who inhabiteth eternity, and who dwells in the high and holy place; with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Away then with every suspicious thought of God's love! Let his praise dwell upon your lips; the actings of love, and thanks, and joy, will help you to comfort, in a nearer way than arguments and self-examination, even *in a way of feeling*! Even as the fire *maketh you* warm, the exercising these

ecter graces will habituate your souls to
, and in time wear out the sad and gloomy
npression you now feel; and in the multi-
ude of such thoughts you may hope, that
he comforts of God will delight your soul.

Marks of a confirmed Christian.

1. A Christian indeed, is one whose re-
pentance has been deep, and serious, and
universal; it has gone to the very root of
sin; and has not left behind any reigning
unmortified corruption, nor any prevailing
love to sensual pleasure. He does not only
condemn sin in words, and use confessions,
to excuse him from mortification, and from
giving the mortal blow to his corruptions
nor does he only repent of his open sins
but he especially perceives the dangerous
poison of pride, and unbelief, and world-
ness, and the want of love to God, and
neighbour; and all his outward and small
sins shew him the malignity of these h
sins; and these are the matter of his grea
lamentation. He takes not up a profes
of religion, with strong corruptions sec
covered in his heart; but his religion
sists in the death of his corruptions,

purifying of his heart. He does not secretly cherish any sin as too sweet, or too profitable to be utterly forsaken, or overlook it as a small inconsiderable matter: but he feels sin to be his enemy and his disease; and desires not one sin to be spared in his soul: but says with David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" "He is blameless, and harmless, as a son of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom he shines as a light in the world." The fear, and love, and obedience of God, is the work and tenor of his life.

2. A Christian indeed, is one, that is so sensible of his lost condition, unworthiness, and utter insufficiency for himself; and so highly prizes the offices, perfection, and sufficiency of Christ; that he has absolutely put his soul and all his hopes into the hands of this Almighty Saviour; and now lives in him, as having no life but what he has from Christ, nor any other way of access to God, or acceptance with him; in him he beholds and delightfully admires the love and goodness of his Father; and through him has access with boldness

to a reconciled God. Christ now dwells in his heart by faith; and being rooted and grounded in love, he "apprehendeth with all saints what is the breadth, and depth, and height of the love of Christ which passeth knowledge!" He feels that he is beholden to Christ for all his hopes of salvation: he perceives that he is dead to himself, and that his life is hid with Christ in God; and therefore he is as it were buried, and risen again with Christ; even dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ; and the life that he now lives, is by the faith of the Son of God who loved him, and gave himself for him.

3. A Christian indeed is one that makes God and heaven the end, the reward, and the motive of his life. The interests of God, and his soul, are the ruling interest with him: as a traveller goes on his way and bears all the difficulty of it, for the sake of the place he is going to; howe he may talk of many other matters by way, his business is to lay up a good fo dation against the time to come, and to hold on eternal life; and therefore his heart is there; and he is employed in ing and setting his affections on above. He looks not at the thing

are seen, which are temporal, but at the things which are unseen, and are eternal. Having taken heaven for his felicity, he accounts no cost too great for the obtaining it. Though difficulties may hinder him, and his attainments fall short of his desires; yet he is resolved, through grace, never to part with Christ and heaven. He knows that it is impossible to be a loser by God, or to purchase heaven at too dear a rate. He knows that whatsoever it may cost him, heaven will fully pay for all. He knows that even our duty is not our smallest privilege and mercy: but that the more we do for God, the more we receive, and the greater is our gain and honour. He is not one that desires the end without the means: he complains of his backwardness to obey, but never complains of the strictness of the command. He loves the holiness, justice, and goodness of the law, while he bewails the unholiness and badness of his heart. He does not desire God to command him less, but desires grace and ability to do more.

4. A Christian indeed is one that daily delights himself in God, and finds more solid *pleasure* in his commands and *promises than all* this world can give him.

Religion is not a tiresome task to him; the yoke of Christ is easy to him, and his burden light. That which others perform from mere necessity, against their will, he goes to with delight. He prays because he loves to pray; and thinks and speaks of holy things, because he takes pleasure in them. If it is a delight to men to converse with their dearest friends, or to hear from them at a distance, it is no wonder if the Christian delights to read the Gospel mysteries of love, and to find there the promises of everlasting happiness; and to see in the face of Jesus Christ the clearest image of the eternal Deity. It is not bare external duty which he is taken up with: but it is God, in creatures and ordinances, that he seeks and lives upon. He would not change the heavenly delight which he finds in the exercise of faith, and hope, and love to God, for all the carnal pleasures of the world. He "would rather be a door-keeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the palaces of wickedness;" "in the multitude of his thoughts within him, the comforts of God delight his soul." His meditation of God is sweet, and he is glad in the Lord. One look to Christ; one promise of the Gospel; one serious thought of the life which he is

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is heart to God, and how little he knows

of him, and how little he loves him in comparison of what he ought: and how little of heaven is upon his heart; and how backward his thoughts are to the life to come. These are as fetters upon his soul. He groans under them as a captive, and longs for the day of his deliverance. He sees in himself so much darkness, imperfection, and want of further grace, that he is often a burden to himself. O could he but know and love God more; and be more in heaven, and more willing to die, how easily could he bear all crosses and injuries, and be content with any state on earth. He is much more fearful of doing wrong than of receiving wrong. He falls out with himself more frequently than with others. He believes himself to be his greatest enemy, and knows that his danger is most at home. He is more careful of his duty to his prince, his parents, his master, his pastor, than of theirs towards him; because he knows that sin is worse than present suffering; and it is better to be injured than to injure others.

6. A Christian indeed is more in getting and using his graces, than inquiring whether he has them. He is very desirous to be assured that he is sincere, but he is more

lesirous to be so: and he knows that even ssurance is gained more by the exercise nd increase of grace, than by bare inquiry vhether we have it already. Not that he s a neglecter of self-examination; but he ftener asks, "What shall I do to be saved?" han "How shall I know that I shall be aved?"

7. A Christian indeed studies duty more han events. He looks to *his own* part nore than God's, knowing that *he himself* s likely to fail; but that *God* will never ail of *his* part. And when any thing goes miss, he blames himself and not God's providence. He knows that the hairs of his head are numbered, and that his Father knows what he needs; and that God is infinitely wiser and fitter to dispose of him than he is to choose for himself: and therefore he thankfully accepts that easy, indulgent command, "Cast all your care on him, for he careth you."

8. A Christian indeed is one that highly values time: he knows how much work he has to do; that he has a soul to save or lose; a heaven to win; a hell to escape; a death and judgment to prepare for; many a sin to mortify, and many graces to exercise and increase, and many enemies

and temptations to overcome: and t
what is now left undone, must be undo
for ever. O precious time! how high
does he value it, when he thinks of h
everlasting state, and what work he has f
every hour of his time. He has a heart t
teach, and watch, and study; and a God t
seek and faithfully serve; and many to d
good to; and a variety of duties to pe
form. But alas! time makes haste aw
and many things are left undone; and h
is afraid that death will find him very m
behind hand: and therefore he is up a
doing as one that has use for every min

9. A Christian indeed makes consci
of all the duties of his station and rela
to others. If he is a husband he is lovi
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is a father, he is careful of the
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ıch more happy is the new Jerusalem,
: city of the living God, where the per-
ted spirits of the just, in perfect life,
l light, and love, are beholding, admir-
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eator, and Redeemer, and Sanctifier for
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PREPARATION FOR DEATH.

My Friends,

You cannot live a comfortable life till you are prepared for a comfortable death; but if you are ready to die well, you are ready to live well, and ready to suffer, and ready for any thing. The man who hopes to be for ever with the Lord, has little to fear. How quietly may he sleep! how easily may he suffer! how joyfully may he live! Give me leave then to assist and direct you in this great work.

1. Be sure that you repent of every known sin: there is nothing makes death so terrible to us as guilt. "*The sting of death is sin.*" It is sin that makes us hide ourselves from our God; and it is sin that hides his face from us. So great is his mercy, that nothing but sin could separate us from his love. Spare not sin, therefore. Search it to the very bottom of your hearts, you will find it has taken deep root there, and requires deep repentance. And when you have found out all its secret places in your hearts, confess it plainly.

But you must go still further, and forsake it resolutely: a half repentance will not afford you comfort in life, or hope in death.

That repentance which is unto life, is a turning unto God; a new heart, and a right spirit; a putting off the old man, and putting on the new; it is ceasing to do evil, and learning to do well; it is a death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness.

2. Put your souls into the hands of Jesus to be pardoned, to be sanctified, and saved. Are you afraid of guilt, and the law, and the wrath of God, and hell? Remember, He is "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." "He was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Fly to this refuge. Lay hold on this hope set before you, and you will find strong consolation.

3. Devote yourself entirely to God; and make it the business of your life to please him, and to do good to all around you. O that I could persuade you, my friends, how much a life of total resignation to God, and devotedness to his service, would contribute to your comfort in life, and your peace at

death! Though your only hope for salvation is the merits of your Redeemer; yet your comfort must much depend upon the evidence you have, that you are a sincere believer in him; that you are sanctified by his Spirit, and created anew in him, and made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Will it not be matter of comfort to you, to look back on such marks of your sincerity as these? That you loved God above all things, and loved your brethren around you, because they were the children of the same heavenly Father. That you have taken Christ for your only Saviour, and his Spirit for your sanctifier. That it has been the desire of your heart, and the endeavour of your life, to please God. That you have endeavoured to mortify sin, though it has been like cutting off a right hand, or plucking out a right eye. That you have loved holiness, more than all the wealth and pleasure of the world. That you have loved the Word of God, and his ordinances, as the means of holiness. And that it has been your earnest desire to be made more holy, and more meet for the world of holiness and love.

O my *friends*! live now, as you will wish

had lived, when you shall be upon a
ıg bed.

. Live daily as in heaven while you are
:arth, by faith, hope, and love. If you
as a stranger to heaven in health, you
be a stranger to it in sickness: and
soul will rather have terror than plea-
:, under a thought of going to a strange
:e, a strange God, strange company, and
nge employments. Remember daily
t there is your Father, your Saviour,
r Comforter, your home, your happiness,
r friends, your treasure, your crown,
r glory! Do all that you do in this
ld with heaven still in your eye. Hear,
read, and pray, as if heaven were open
ıre you. Resist temptations, and follow
r business and your trade, as if heaven
still in sight, as a traveller holds on his
ney in remembrance of the end. Medi-
often on the heavenly glory; on the
ainty, the nearness, the greatness of
glory. Think how many millions of
souls are there in joy, while we are
in fears and cares. They have passed
ugh a world of trials, and were com-
ed with such infirmities as ours, and
ed through death as we must do. We
ot an untrodden path; but are "fol-

lowers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Think how much better it is with them than with us. How they are freed from all our sins and sufferings, doubts and fears. O think what it is for a perfected, holy soul, to see the glorified Redeemer, and all the holy company of saints and angels. To see the glory of God, and to have the knowledge of his glorious works; to feel his love poured out on us, and to be swallowed up in love and praise. Think of your holy acquaintance that are gone before you; and frequently take as it were a walk in the streets of the city of God. Suppose you saw their glory, and heard their concordant praises of their Creator, their Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Let such thoughts as these be your daily work and pleasure, and the conversation of your minds with God above. And because your heart will be backward you must drive it on, and preach as it were to yourself. Let heaven be your subject; convince your heart with evidence; urge it with heavenly motives; solace it with heavenly comforts: and when it is dull turn your thoughts by petition to God, and beg his help. Sometimes speak to yourselves, and sometimes

reverently to God; and thus keep a holy communion and familiarity above. This will make heaven desirable to you in a dying hour. If you can but keep the sensible apprehensions of God's love continually upon your heart, it will make heaven desirable to you, and the drawing of God's love will overcome the fears of death.

Think much of the infinite perfection of God: remember his goodness is equal to his greatness; and what that is, look up to the heavens and see. He is called love itself; and shall it be hard for a soul that desires to please God, to believe that love itself loves him, and that infinite goodness will be pleased with him in Christ Jesus.

The Son of God, incarnate, in his whole work of redemption, is a wonderful glass to reveal the love of God to man. The greatest proof of friendship cannot more convince us of the love of our friend.

The remembering all the great mercies of your lives, to your souls and bodies, in every place, and state, and company, will help to convince you, that he that hath done all this for you, loveth you. And you may trust that God of love at death, who hath filled up your lives with the benefits of his love.

Make praise and thanksgiving a part of your devotion every day. If you thus employ your heart and tongue in this exercise of love to God, it will keep on your soul a sweet sense of his love to you, and make both health and sickness easy.

To live in the sense of God's love, and in the exercise of it by praise, and holy desires, and good works, is the very first fruits and foretaste of heaven upon earth: and is a fruit of believing more excellent than faith itself. It comforts and draws the soul by the most powerful ways; even by experimental taste of his love and goodness; and he will most easily believe that there is a heaven for him, who has the beginning and foretastes of it already.

Instructions to dying Christians.

Now, my friends, let every anxious thought be dismissed; and deliver up your souls with humble, but cheerful confidence into the hands of your Father and your Redeemer. Will you not trust the God and Father of your spirits, who is love itself? Will you not trust your Saviour who hath saved you so far already, and who has saved so many millions beh

you? Trust him with his own! Trust him as the mediator of the new covenant sealed by his blood, by which free forgiveness and life is given to all believers! Trust him as the King and Judge of all, and as the advocate of the faithful; as our great High Priest, who intercedes for us, and hath taken possession of the glory, to which he hath promised to bring us. Trust him implicitly with soul and body; leave both in his faithful hands; and let his power, wisdom, and love dispose of you as he pleases. Indulge no anxious thoughts of the corruption of your flesh, or of the unsearchable difficulties of the nature of spirits, and the things unseen, which overwhelm and bewilder many. But rest your souls in the will of God through a Redeemer, in that will which is infinitely good, and the only felicity and rest of souls.

2. Renew your believing thoughts of God's love, and of all the mercies of your life. Instead of sorrowing that they are at an end, rejoice with thankfulness. Rejoice in that mercy which opened your eyes, and turned you from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God; which has pardoned and adopted you, and led you far on your way towards the heavenly

inheritance. O triumph in that love which has delivered you from so many temptations of Satan, the flesh, and this deceitful world! And shall a poor servant of his, who has endeavoured in sincerity, though in sinful weakness, to do his will, and has a High Priest interceding for him in heaven, be afraid to go to such a God!

3. Now steep your souls in the believing thoughts of the heavenly glory to which you are going. O now remember that the time is but short till you shall sin no more, and fear no more, and suffer no more; till you shall know God and his works, not only as much as you can desire, but as much as your heart can wish, or your enlarged capacities can receive. O what an hour will that be, when you shall be newly entered into the city of God, the heavenly society, and sing your first song of joyful praise to God and the Lamb! O what an enemy is unbelief, that can make us stand trembling without the doors, and afraid to enter, while millions of our brethren are rejoicing within; and where our Lord stands ready to receive us, and where angels and all the heavenly hosts will welcome us with joy!

Reflections for an aged Christian.

'hat abundant experience have I had
'od's fidelity and love! And after all
shall I not love him? His undeserved
ness gave me being; it chose my
nts, gave them a tender love for me,
desire of my good; it taught them to
uct me early in his word; to educate
n his fear; it placed me in the best of
s, and one of the best of ages; it de-
ed all great expectations from the
d, teaching me to bear the yoke from
youth; it chastened me betimes, but
not destroy me. I have been trained
n the school of affliction, to keep my
gish soul awake in the constant ex-
ation of my great change; to kill my
e and overvaluing of this world; and
spur to quicken my soul to diligence.
'hat a mercy hath a life of gentle chas-
nent proved to me! It urged me,
inst all dull delays, to make my call-
and election sure; and to make ready my
ounts, as one that must quickly give
n up to God. It was love and mercy
t made sacred truth so pleasant to me
ll its glorious discoveries and practical
How many comfortable hours have

I had in the society of living sai
many joyful days in the solemn a
where God has been worshipped
riousness by concordant, though i
saints! From how many a dan
and pain, have I been delivere
many weary days have been s
with his pleasant work, and h
painful nights have had a co
morning! Many a time have I cri
Lord in my trouble, and he hath
me out of my distress.

These, and many more than t
my experiences of that wondrou
which has measured my pilgrim
filled up my days. Never did G
his promises with me; never di
me, nor forsake me, till provoke
wilful sinning. How little int
have I had of my peace and com
shall I now distrust him at last?
not quietly trust that infinite wisd
and power, which I have so long
and found so good? To thee, O
to a faithful Creator, I commit my
know that thou art the faithful
keepest covenant and mercy w
that love thee, and keep thy
ments. To thee, O my Savior

my spirit. It is thine own by redemption; it is thine own by covenant; it is marked and sealed for thine own by thy Spirit; and thou hast promised not to lose it. Thou wast made like thy brethren, that thou mightest be "a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God," to make reconciliation for our sins. By thy blood we have boldness to enter into the holiest; even by the new and living consecrated way. Cause me to draw near with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith; for he is faithful who has promised life through thee. Faithful and true are all thy promises. Thou hast promised rest to weary souls that come unto thee. I am weary of suffering and of sin; weary of my flesh, and weary of my darkness, and dulness, and distance; and of this wicked and unrighteous world. And whither should I look for rest, but to my heavenly Father, and to thee? I am but a bruised reed; but thou wilt not break me. I am but a smoking flax; but thou wilt not quench what thy grace hath kindled. The Lord redeemeth the souls of his servants, and none of them that trust in thee shall be desolate; therefore will wait on thy name, for it is good, and

trust in the mercy of God for ever. Thou art my hope, O Lord God! thou art my trust from my youth; my praise shall be continually of thee. O God! forsake me not! "I had fainted unless I had believed, to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." The sun may cease to shine on man, and the earth to bear us; but God will never cease to live, nor to be faithful to his promises. Blessed be the Lord, who hath commanded me so safe and quieting a duty,—to trust him, and cast all my care on one who has promised to care for me.

HYMN.

My God, my everlasting hope,
  I live upon thy truth:
Thy hands have held my childhood up,
  And strengthen'd all my youth.

Still has my life new wonders seen
  Repeated every year,
Behold! my days that yet remain,
  I trust them to thy care.

Cast me not off when strength declines,
  When hoary hairs arise:
And round me let thy glory shine,
  Whene'er thy servant dies.

Then in the history of my age,
When men review my days,
They'll read thy love in every page;
In every line thy praise.

A Thanksgiving Prayer for an aged or dying Christian.

Alas, dear Lord, I am ashamed that to e and praise thee should be a work of iculty! What should I love, if not good- s and love itself? That merciful Father) made me, that I might love him; who eemed me, that by love he might win love; and sanctified me to dispose my l to love him? What shall I praise, if infinite perfection? the glory of whose ver, wisdom, and goodness, shines forth he whole creation! Heaven and earth ise thee! And am I no part of heaven earth? The whole creation proclaims glory? And am I not a part of thy ation? Thy very enemies, when re- med, reconciled and forgiven, praise love and grace of their Redeemer! d am I not one of these? Thy saints *love thee;* for love is the essence of a *t: they* praise thee; for this is the work

of saints. And am I not one of these? I am less than the least of all thy mercies; but it is not the least of thy mercies which I have received. And if a life full of mercies has not brought forth a life full of love and praise, let it end in a loving and praising death.

A Prayer against Unbelief.

O Thou that knowest how deadly an enemy unbelief is to thy honour and my soul, send I beseech thee that heavenly light to my mind which may banish and confound it. Let it not blaspheme thy truth, and imprison, and blind, and torment my soul. O Thou that givest the word, the Saviour, the heaven which I must believe, deny me not that faith by which I must believe them. It must be thy glory whose reflections must reveal thy glory to us; and a light from heaven that must shew us heaven. O send one beam, one beam, Lord, of that heavenly light into this dark sinful soul! that, with Stephen, I may see in my passage the glory of my blessed Lord to whom I go; and wi

Simeon may gladly say, "Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation!" One beam of thine will drive away the powers of darkness, and banish all these doubts and fears, and let in some of heaven into my soul, before it is admitted into heaven! O thou blessed Spirit, the illuminator of dark imprisoned souls, remember not all my resistances of thy grace, and leave me not to the power of darkness and unbelief!

O Thou that art the Spirit of life, so quicken and actuate this sluggish soul, that the last part of my race may be run with vigour, and the last act of my life may be done in evidence of the heavenly influence, and may be more like the heavenly employment, than all the rest has been! Now kindle that fire of heavenly love in me; and give me some taste of the celestial joys, which may feelingly tell me that there is a heaven indeed; and may be the witness within, and the pledge and earnest that I shall live with Christ. My flesh and my heart now fail me; the world and all therein is nothing to me; I am taking my everlasting farewell of them all. But one beam of his face, and one taste of his love, who is my portion for

ever, will be strength and joy to my departing soul, and better than this life and all its pleasures. Come, Lord, with all these seasonable comforts into my soul, that my soul may comfortably come to thee! My life had been but death, and darkness, and disaffection to God, if thou hadst not been in me a spirit of life, and light, and love. The tempter would have been too strong for me. And how then shall I deal with him myself, when the languishings of my body shall disable my soul! Thou despisest not art and reason. I thank thee for the use I have had of them in their season. But one beam of thy light, one spark of thy love, one motion of thy heavenly life, will better confute the enemy of faith than my disputes can do. Teach me effectually to love and praise thee; and it shall powerfully prove to me that there is a heaven where I shall joyfully love and praise thee for ever.

The Prayer of a Christian near Death.

O thou Sovereign of Life and Death, of Earth and Heaven! Thy mercy brought

ı into the world, kept me from a thousand ngers, and gave me innumerable bless- gs of life and godliness. Thy mercy nvinced and converted me, renewed and nctified my heart, and formed Christ in ı. O amazing mercy, that I am not ing in an impenitent and Christless ıte! I thank thee for the means of grace, d the hopes of glory. I thank thee for e fruits of Canaan through the wilder- ss, and now on the brink of Jordan. I ank thee for the cordials of thy great and ecious promises, and that they are now precious as ever. I covenanted with thee : eternal life, as the gift of thy free grace, rough Jesus Christ my Lord. In his me I humbly claim it. To thine hand I mmit this departing spirit. I am thine; ve me. I have fled to the cross of thy ın. I have renounced all dependance on y worthiness of my own. I come to thee a sinner, believing in Christ for pardon d salvation. Let me have my lot among e followers of Jesus. I know in whom have believed. I rejoice that I am in e hands of the good Shepherd. I thank ee that, after this long absence, thou art *lling me* home—to my glorious eternal *ne. But* forsake not the world I a

leaving, nor thy church from which I am removing. Having bought it with an inestimable price; still guard it, purify it, and unite it more and more, till all flesh shall see thy salvation. Let my few remaining moments on earth be spent for thy glory. Whatever this flesh may suffer, let my soul be rising to the general assembly and church of the first-born, to the innumerable company of angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. Let faith be strong in the last hour. Let me ascend in the chariot of love and praise, and for ever sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb! Even so, come Lord Jesus; come surely; come quickly! Amen.

Prayer for a dying Christian.

Thy mercy brought me into the world. Thy mercy chose my parentage, education, and habitation; it trained me up, it kept me from a thousand dangers; it attempered my body and furnished my mind; it gave me teachers, books, and helps; yea, it gave me a Redeemer, the promise of life, and the word of salvation! It gave me the influences of thy Spirit, which touched

and turned my sinful heart; all my repenting and resolving thoughts; all the forgiveness of my manifold sins; all the sweet meditations of thy love, and the experience of thy good and pleasant service! The comfortable hours which I have had in secret thoughts, in public worship, on thy holy days, at thy holy table, among thy people; all these have been the dealings of thy love! All my deliverances from temptation and sin; from death and danger; all my recoveries from my too frequent falls, and pardon of my daily sins; all the use it hath pleased thee to make of me an unworthy sinner for the good of any, for soul or body; all these are the pledges of thy wondrous love! And shall I be afraid to come to such a God! Hath mercy filled up all my life, and brought me now so near to my end? and shall I not trust it after so much trial? It is heaven that thou madest me for; and heaven that Christ did purchase for me. It is heaven thou promisedst if I would be thine; and it is heaven that I consented to take for my portion, and for which I did engage to forsake the world. And O that I had more entirely done it: *for I now find* how little reason I have *repent of my* covenant! It is heaven wh

thy Spirit of grace and merciful providences have all this while been preparing me for; and shall I now be fearful and unwilling to possess it? O my God, do not these foretastes of love assure me that I shall be happy in thy love for ever! My hope in thy goodness, thy Son, and thy covenant, will never be disappointed. Thou hast guided me by thy counsel, and thou wilt bring me to thy glory. Amen.

An Address to a dying Christian.

DEAR FRIEND,

Though nature teaches us to mourn with you under your present sufferings; yet faith permits us to rejoice with you in hope of your endless joys, which seem to be near at hand. We must rejoice with you as the friends that love you; and therefore, are partakers of your welfare. And we must rejoice with you as fellow-travellers and fellow-soldiers, that are going along with you to the same felicity: and if we are left behind for a little while, yet we hope ere long to overtake you, and never to be separated from you more. This is the

for which Christ has been so long preparing you; this is the day which you thought on in all your prayers, and labours, and sufferings; your self-denial and mortification. Now you are going to see the things which you have believed, and to possess the things which you have sought and hoped for. Oh now, what a mercy is it to have a Christ! that you are not to encounter an unconquered death, nor to go to God without a Mediator: but that Death is by Christ disarmed of his sting; and that you may boldly resign your soul into the hands of your Redeemer, and commend it to him as a member of himself! Now you may better perceive than ever you have done, what God did for you when he opened your eyes, and humbled, and changed, and renewed your sinful heart; when he forgave all your sins, and justified you by his grace, adopted you for his child and an heir of life, and sealed you with his Spirit, and separated you to himself; and how great a mercy it is to be a penitent believer. How sad would your case now be, if you were yet in your sins; if your heart was now to be softened, humbled, and converted; and all your preparation for heaven to be made: *and all this* with a pained body and a dis-

tracted mind; and in so short a time; with God, and eternity, and death before you! If you had all your past life to look back upon as consumed in sin! But what an unspeakable mercy is it, that you have been reconciled to that God to whom you are going: and that the sins which would now have been your horror, are all forgiven through the blood of Christ! That you can look back upon your time, since the day of your conversion, as spent in faithful devotedness to God; in a believing preparation for an endless life; and in godly sincerity, notwithstanding many sinful imperfections. And though you have nothing of your own to justify you at the bar of God; and need a Saviour and pardon even for your best duties; yet you must with thankfulness remember the grace which has begun eternal life within you, and prepared you for it.

You have had something to humble you, and to shew you that you were a child of Adam; and you have had something for grace to contend with, and to conquer, and for Christ to pardon. Bless him through whom you have had the victory; and ere long you shall sing the song of the Lamb with stronger love, and richer experience of his grace. O what a joy is it to our da-

parting souls that we have our Head and Saviour already in possession of the kingdom which we are passing to! What a support and joy is it to receive this message from our ascending Lord, "Say to my brethren, I ascend to my Father, and your Father; to my God and your God!" What a joy is it to read his promise: "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be." You have served him, and are following him, and are going to be with him where he is.

Consolations addressed to a dying Christian.

My friend, *you* seem now to be almost at your journey's end: but how many sad steps have those to go, whom you leave behind in this sinful world! You have fought a good fight, and kept the faith; and shall never be troubled with any enemy, or temptation, when this contest is over. You shall never be so much as tempted to unbelief, or pride, or worldly mindedness, or fleshly lusts, or to any defects in the service of your Lord. But how many temptations do you leave us encompassed wi

And how many dangers and enemies to overcome! And, alas, how many falls and wounds may we receive! You are entering into the harbour, and leave us tossed by the tempest on the waves. Flesh will no more entice or cloy your soul. You will no more have unruly senses to command, nor an unreasonable appetite to govern; nor wandering thoughts, nor boisterous passions to restrain. Your service of God will no more be mixed and blemished with imperfections. You shall never more have a cold, or hard, or backward heart, or a careless customary duty to lament. Will it not be a joyful day to you, when you shall know God as much as you desire to know him! and love him as much as you desire to love him? There you shall be delivered from the darkness of this world. How dimly do we see through the veil of the flesh! How little do we know, and how much are we ignorant of; and what pain does our little knowledge cost us! But there, one sight of the face of God will put an end to this long night; and there we shall understand the works of God, and the frame of the creation; the place, the ori and reason of all the things which here know not. The mysteries of the C

ı angels desire to look into, will be unfolded to you. What welcome will blessed angels give you, that here ined not to minister to you, and bear up in all your ways, and interested selves in your concerns; rejoicing be-God at your conversion! How glad will they be at your safe arrival at the ised harbour of felicity with them-s! What joy will you be entertained welcomed into! to the acquaintance ose blessed spirits, and of all the holy :s that are delivered from this flesh and l; and to see their order, be numbered their society, and to be employed in joyful work! O how much better any is there than the best below! e is no ignorance; and, therefore no ; no want of love, and no contention; rrow private interest to contend for; ıll made happy in perfect love: no mockings or imprisonments; none des-ɛ, afflicted, or tormented; no more ·ings for the sake of righteousness; ıaving suffered with Christ, they are reigning with him. No wars or ru-s of wars; because no lust to war in *members*. There we shall have no *ng friend* to mourn for; your righ-

teous soul will no longer be grieved with the wicked; the whole society will shine in light, and flame in love; and none through weakness or corruption will be a cloy or hindrance to another. Above all this, you shall behold the person of your glorified Redeemer! the wonderful condescension of his incarnation, and the mystery of his divine nature will there be better understood. You shall see the blessed God himself; in that place which he hath prepared to reveal his glory in. You shall see him, whose sight will perfect your understandings; and love him, and feel the fulness of his love. O what a change will it be to a humble fearful soul, to find itself in a moment dislodged from a sinful painful flesh; and entered into a world of light and life, and holy love! Alas! that our present ignorance and fear should make us draw back from such a change! That while all the brethren that died in faith, are triumphing in those joys with Christ, our trembling souls should be too loth to leave this flesh, and to be called to the same felicity! O what an enemy is the remnant of unbelief to our souls, that it can hide such indescribable glory from our eyes, that we should no more desire it, but are willing to

stay so long from God! How wonde
that love and mercy that brings such
ward souls to happiness; and draws
blessedness, whether we will or not!
on then, dear friend, and faint not
last. Fear not to encounter the K
Terrors! It is the last enemy, and
conquered enemy.

An Address to the Sick, when unpr
for Death.

My Dear Friend,

It has pleased God, in whose han
breath is, and whose are all our wa
lay his afflicting hand upon you. H
done much to convince you of his lov
has nourished and brought you up
child; crowned you with loving-ki
and tender mercies; and invited y
partake of all the blessings of the
Salvation. But hitherto all has be
vain; his terrors have not alarmed y
mercies have not melted you; b
love still follows you: and rather th
should perish, he is laying his corr
hand upon you. You have often se
love of a father in the chastisemen
child; and will you not believe y

of a Redeemer! O that my
waters, and my eyes a fountain
I might weep day and night!
upon me, O God! Turn me,
be turned! I have undone m
thee do I look for help! Lord
I perish! I have heard that
Israel is a merciful King, an
hast declared thyself the Lord
ful and gracious! I have he
cious invitations to the weary
laden; and I come to lay hold
and mercy! Take away this h
and give me a heart of flesh
melt at thy love, to mourn for
against thee: a heart to love
to hunger and thirst after ri
O my God, it is a great wor
this sinful heart, and to creat
Christ Jesus; to crucify the o
to put on the new: and I ma
little time for this great work.
many doubts must I have of
cerity! But, O my God, the w
own! Thy Spirit can sanctif
rupt affections, and the blood o
can cleanse me from all sin!
the foot of the cross, and if I
perish there.

A MISSIONARY PRAYER.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come: who is God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders! Thou art blessed in thyself, and the gracious Author of all our blessings, the only sovereign Lord, who canst do what thou pleasest in heaven and in earth. Thou alone hast everlasting life in thyself, and thou only canst bestow it upon others.

O Lord! thou hast purchased to thyself an universal church, by the precious blood of thy dear Son, and hast commanded that intercession be made for all men by thy chosen people. We now more especially draw near unto thee, to entreat thy blessing upon the nations that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. May missionaries and ministers be abundantly raised up and sent forth among them, and may these thy servants be enabled in the power of thy Spirit, to proclaim in every land the good tidings of everlasting salvation through a crucified Redeemer. We praise *thee, O God!* and we would that all the

of a Redeemer! O that my head
waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears,
I might weep day and night! Have m
upon me, O God! Turn me, and I
be turned! I have undone myself; b
thee do I look for help! Lord, save m
I perish! I have heard that the Ki
Israel is a merciful King, and that
hast declared thyself the Lord God, m
ful and gracious! I have heard thy
cious invitations to the weary and h
laden; and I come to lay hold of thy
and mercy! Take away this heart of
and give me a heart of flesh: a hea
melt at thy love, to mourn for my rebe
against thee: a heart to love holiness,
to hunger and thirst after righteous
O my God, it is a great work to ch
this sinful heart, and to create it an
Christ Jesus; to crucify the old man,
to put on the new: and I may have
little time for this great work. But O
many doubts must I have of my own
cerity! But, O my God, the work is t
own! Thy Spirit can sanctify these
rupt affections, and the blood of sprink
can cleanse me from all sin! I will
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earth should worship before thee in spirit and in truth. Where darkness and delusion prevail, and every evil work abounds, may grace much more abound, through the preaching of the glorious gospel of reconciliation and peace. But how, O Lord, shall they hear without a teacher, and who but the Lord of the harvest shall send forth labourers into the field? Influence our cold hearts, thou God of love! and awaken in us a deeper concern for the souls of men. Call forth by thy Spirit the energies of a divine philanthropy, and let its workings be guided by thy redeeming grace. Pour forth a spirit of love, of power, and of a sound mind, and grant that unity and brotherly love may confirm and strengthen that which is weak among ourselves.

Look on those who are already gone forth not counting their lives dear to them in this glorious cause. Support them under all sufferings and discouragements, whether of mind, body, or estate; and finally give them to see the triumphs of thy word in pulling down the strong holds of iniquity, and turning many to the wisdom of the just. O! that that just One would rend the heavens and come down, and establish his cause upon the earth! We wait for thee, O

hrist, as those who watch for the morn-
ıg; hasten the great day of the restitution
f all things, and let the year of thy re-
eemed come—the year of recompense for
ıe controversies of Zion. We bless thee
ıat thine arm hath not been shortened that
should not save; but that our eyes have
een the assemblies of thy people gathered
ogether as in a holy convocation to proclaim
ıy glory. Awake! Awake! put on thy
rength, O arm of the Lord: awake, as in
ıe ancient days, as in the generations of
ld, and make the depths of the sea a way
or the ransomed of the Lord to pass over.
e thou their confidence who are afar off, and
t the blessing of Him who was separated
om his brethren be upon them even to
ıe utmost bounds of the everlasting hills.
ook on the churches of Asia, where were
ıe golden candlesticks, and restore unto
ıem their privileges as at the first, and
ırn again their captivity as the streams of
ıe south.

Destroy the power of her whose hire is
ıe souls of men, and let those who are
nder strong delusions to believe a lie, be
eleased by the Spirit of truth from the
ondage of corruption.

Revisit every branch of thy vine, O Lord

and plant it anew by thy right hand; and where some good seed is found in it, let it be restored before thee, and say thou, "Spare, for a blessing is in it." Bring back thine ancient people the Jews: convince them that Shiloh is come, and let them answer the messengers of the nations, that the Lord hath founded Zion, and that the poor of her people do trust in a crucified Messiah. And wherever, O God, thou hast begun to shew thy servants thy greatness and thy mighty hand, go on, we beseech thee, to work for thine own glory, and to perfect that which concerneth it.

Look upon us in mercy, and hear our prayer: hear us, good Lord, for thine own name's sake, even for the sake of that great name whereby thou delightest to be called —The Lord God, long-suffering and gracious, full of goodness and truth. Open unto each of us the treasures of thy word. Fulfil unto us thy glorious promises, and make us so firmly thine in Christ Jesus, that we may ever have our portion among thy people upon earth, and finally receive from thee the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

HYMN.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run:
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And princes throng to crown his head:
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains:
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Where he displays his healing pow'r,
Death and the curse are known no more:
In him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.

Let ev'ry creature rise, and bring
Peculiar honours to our King:
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud *Amen!*

OCCASIONAL SENTENCES

WHICH MAY BE ADDED TO ANY OF THE DAILY PRAYERS.

When any Member of the Family is sick.

Hear us, almighty and most merciful God and Saviour: extend thy accustomed goodness to thy servant who is grieved with sickness. Sanctify, we beseech thee, thy fatherly correction to *him;* that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith, and seriousness to *his* repentance: That, if it shall be thy good pleasure to restore *him* to *his* former health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* life *in* thy fear, and *to* thy glory: or else, give *him* grace so to take thy visitation, that, after this painful life ended, *he* may dwell with thee in life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When any Member of the Family is going a Journey.

We especially entreat thee in behalf of *him,* who in addition to the ordinary dan-

' life, is about to be exposed to those
immediately incident to travelling.
him, we beseech thee, every jour-
mercy. Be thou, O Lord, *his* helper,
s defence on every side. Let no
›efall *him* by night or by day. Keep
›m all evil. Preserve *his* going out
›ming in; and be with *him* amidst
vicissitudes of this earthly pilgrim-
l thou hast brought *him* to thy holy
›, to be a pillar in the house of his
›nd to go no more out.

For those under Affliction.

k upon all who are afflicted and
sed, whether in mind, body, or estate.
thou their infirmities, remove their
and in the mean time sanctify to
all thy dispensations. May every
ınd every trial, lead them, and lead
to prepare more earnestly for that
l state, when there shall be no more
and where sorrow and sighing shall
›r flee away.

For Friends and Relatives.

commend to thy fatherly care our
›d friends and relatives. Grant them

whatever may be good for them in this present life, and afterwards receive them to everlasting glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or

May thy blessing rest on our friends, relatives, and acquaintance. Make us all partakers of thy salvation; and whatever separation thy good providence may make upon earth, O grant that we and they may meet with joy at thy right hand in the day of judgment.

Or with the same commencement.

Enable us all to live in love and peace together, discharging every duty as in thy sight, and looking for thy mercy through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and may we all at length rejoice together in the great day of his appearing.

A Preparatory Sentence to Prayer.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking; we beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things, which for our unworthi-

ss we dare not, and for our blindness we
nnot ask, vouchsafe to give us for the
orthiness of thy son Jesus Christ our
ord.

A Prayer for the Universal Church.

O God, the creator and preserver of all
ankind, we humbly beseech thee for all
rts and conditions of men; that thou
ouldest be pleased to make thy ways
own unto them, thy saving health unto
l nations. More especially we pray for
e good estate of the Universal Church,
at the course of this world may be so
aceably ordered by thy Providence, that
may joyfully serve thee in all godly quiet-
ss; and that all they who do confess thy
ly name may agree in the truth of thy
ly word, and live in unity and godly love.

For the Afflicted.

Almighty God, who art full of compas-
on, we most humbly beseech thee of thy
odness, to comfort and succour all, who
this transitory life, are in trouble, sor-
w, need, sickness, or any other adversity,
ving them patience under their sufferings,
d a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

Concluding Collect.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's name: we beseech thee mercifully to grant, that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained to the relief of our necessities, and to the setting forth of thy glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Doxology.

Now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benedictions.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, now and evermore. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and remain with us always. Amen.

FINIS.

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